THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Feb. 24th—March 2nd, 1983
Volume 18, Number 8

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Treatise on Saltwater Fly Rodding—Page 12.

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THE Fisherman
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Volume 18, Number 8 February 24th, 1983

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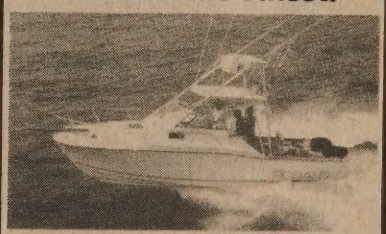

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BOATING COURSE BEGINS IN GLEN COVE

A 9-lesson course will be given by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at the Glen Cove High School, Dosoris Lane, starting Wednesday, March 2 at 8PM. The course will be presented by experienced instructors using the Auxiliary's highly acclaimed text book and related instructional materials. A wide area of subjects will be covered. The lessons are designed for beginning and intermediate levels and family participation is encouraged. The course is offered free, with a nomial fee for the text and materials. Upon successful completion of the course, you will receive a certificate from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

For further information call Public Education Officer Mr. Harvey Notov at 681-0993.

WORLD FISHING EXPO TO SHOW MORE TACKLE THAN EVER BEFORE

If fishing is your game, the sixth annual World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition which returns to the Rockland Community College Field House in Suffern, New York, March 2nd through 6th, is an event you just have to see. There are other shows, but this is the big one. In fact, local sportsmen have started calling it the "Super Bowl of Sport Fishing," there's so much to see and do.

It's possible in one day and under one roof to see all the latest products of over 90 major national and international fishing tackle manufacturers, talk with hunting and fishing guides from Alaska to Newfoundland to states across the U.S., meet and hear famous fishermen such as Ernest Schwiebert and Larry Nixon, try the latest rods at a casting pool, discuss the finer points of wild turkey hunting with Ben Rodgers Lee, view films of remote hunting and fishing sararis, and drift leisurely among the more than 300 exhibits displaying everything of interest to sportsmen.

There are equipment exhibits staffed with experienced people who will tell you how to get the most out of their wares, clinics and seminars led by a host of the biggest names in sport fishing who will show you how to sharpen up your own skills and increase your pleasure hunting and fishing, demonstrations of casting and representatives of major fishing and hunting areas eager to help you plan your dream trip for 1983.

There are so many things to see that you'll find the show directory and clinic program a real aid. Pick one up as you come in. Exhibitors are listed alphabetically by category and there's a floor plan that shows you exactly where their booths are. Instead of wandering aimlessly and maybe missing something altogether, you can zero in on your particular interest.

No doubt you'll get distracted along the way; but that's part of the fun of this show, there's so much to grab your attention. Don't neglect to look at the clinic schedule in the program; it tells you which clinic will be happening when, and who the personality is who will be speaking. The clinics are a big part of this show and set it apart from any other we've seen. According to show director Paul Fuller, 1983 marks his broadest effort ever to provide new dimensions of service and information to the sporting public.

Just a few of the big names in fishing tackle who will be there include Abu-Garcia, Daiwa, Shimano, Penn, Fenwick, Cortland, Quick, Stren, Scientific Angler, Childre, Shakespeare, Berkley, Heddon, Eagle Claw, Cordell, Leonard and many more. It's the largest lineup of tackle mackers ever to exhibit at any sports show in the eastern United States.

On top of that, there are numerous smaller firms, custom rod builders such as Vince Cummings, Walt Carpenter and Harry Wilson; local tackle shops; and many makers of terminal tackle who will have the latest plugs, spinner baits, soft baits, crank baits and flies. Add numerous displays of marine electronic gear, boats, motors, fishing lodges, guides and taxidermists, and the result is surely a fisherman's dream show!

No matter if your special interest is surf fishing Long Island, party boat fishing off the Jersey shore, trout fishing in the Catskills, Atlantic big game fishing rainbows in Alaska or trout fishing in Canada or Europe, it will all be there at the sixth annual World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition.

Taking up nearly two acres of floor space, the Expo is all under one roof inside the comfortable field house at Rockland Community College in Suffern, New York. You get there by taking Exit 14B (Airmont Road) off the N.Y. Thruway (I-87). The exit is the first one north of the end of the Garden State Parkway, so it's easily reached either from New Jersey, or via the Tappan Zee Bridge for folks in New York City and Long Island. North and West of Suffern, just take I-87 south to Exit 14B.

More convenient weekday hours have been established for those wishing to make it a day's outing; now it's possible to spend an entire weekday afternoon at the show. Wednesday through Friday, March 2nd through 4th, hours are from 1?3;PM to 10PM. On Saturday, March 5, the show opens at 9:30 in the morning and runs to 9PM. Sunday, March 6, it's open from 10:30AM to 7PM.

Adult admission is $4.50, which admits you to all exhibits aNd clinics that day. (The printed directory and clinic program is free.) Children under 12 years old are admitted for $1.50. All parking at the World

Fishing & Outdoor Exposition is free.

This show is truly a "heavy-weight champion" of sports shows and has received national recognition as the standard of excellence by which other shows around the country are measured.

It only comes around once a year, so plan to be there!

JOHNSON CONDUCTS MARINE HEARING

State Senator Owen H. Johnson (R-C, 4th S.D.), center, Chairman of the New York State Senate Subcommittee on the Long Island Marine District, listens to testimony presented during a public hearing he conducted on marine topics in Lindenhurst on January 15. The hearing, at which more than two dozen speakers addressed a standing-room-only crowd, focused on striped bass management proposals, legislation prohibiting the taking of fish for commercial purposes within 1,000 feet of state parks, and the overall role of the state's Department of Environmental Conservation in protecting the marine resource. Senator Johnson termed the hearing "informative" and said that the testimony which was presented will be helpful in pressing for needed legislation in Albany.

SMALL BOAT HANDLING COURSE IN SHEEPSHEAD BAY

For the first time, the Brooklyn Power Squadron will conduct a course in small boat handling in the Sheepshead Bay area—the leading "port" of Brooklyn's recreational boating fleet.

Registration for the 12-week course will take place at Sheepshead Bay High School, 3000 Avenue X (near Nostrand Avenue), starting at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, February 24. Skippers and would-be skippers, both men and women over the age of 16, are invited to register. Ownership of a boat is not required.

Classes will be held at Sheepshead Bay High School on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, beginning on March 2. The classes cover the techniques of safe handling of outboard and inboard craft, anchoring, tying basic knots, reading charts and plotting courses, use of a mariner's compass, and safety afloat.

Aids to navigation, such as buoys and radio beacons, are explained in illustrated lectures. The efficient use of power boats for maximum gas mileage will be described. And the new rules of the road for safe operation also will be taught to students.

A similar course in small boat handling has been given by the Brooklyn Power Squadron at St. Francis College in downtown Brooklyn for many years. The Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, conducts the classes to teach sail and power boaters the skills they must possess for safety on the water. Additional information can be obtained by calling 768-4714.

LADY REELERS PRESENT AWARDS FOR '82 SEASON

The following winners were feted at the Club's recent awards dinner held at the Brauhaus Restaurant:

Angler of the Year—Karen Chalson.
Betty Rickert, bluefish 17.4
Carol Jaspers, weakfish 10.6
Elissa Kessler, fluke, 6.12
Betty Rickert, porgy, 2.10
Marla Honekman, striped bass, 11.10
Jean Rose, flounder, 3.8½
Elsa Rivera, sea bass, 5.14
Karen Chalson, white marlin 77 lbs.
Lorry Mangan, false albacore, 8.14
Karen Chalson, blue shark, 268 lbs.
Karen Chalson, mako, 131 lbs.
Loretta Verry, pollack, 4.11
Karen Chalson, true albacore, 29.8
Lorry Mangan, cod, 25.3
Maryann Petrignani, blackfish, 12.2½

Derby Winners: Bluefish, 10.3, Betty Alrieri; fluke, 4.11, Betty Bunting-Humphreys; porgy, 2.3, Sue Cox; flounder, 3.8½, Jean Rose.

OUTCAST BASS ANGLERS SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Outcast Bass Anglers, a freshwater tournament club, fishing Long Island, (lower) New York State and Connecticut is seeking additional members. Monthly meetings, demonstrations, guest speakers, films and 11 tournaments with prizes.

For information call, Bill Gold, (212) 746-8935 or Len Fink, (516) 742-9045 (eves.).

BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP COURSE

Coast Guard Auxiliary 13-3 is giving a 10-week course which includes rules of the road, charts and compass, weather, radiotelephone, marlinspike, seamanship, boat handling and marine engines.

In **Island Park**, registration on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 22nd and 23rd, 6:30 to 9PM at the Lincon Oren Jr. High. Classes start on Monday, February 28th.

In **Long Beach**, registration on Monday and Wednesday, March 7th and 9th from 8PM to 10PM, at Long Beach Junior High School in Lido. Classes start Tuesday, March 15th.

Saturday morning classes for the same course will be held at the Long Beach Public Library at 111 West Park Avenue. Registration: February 26th and March 5th, 10AM to Noon. First class will be Saturday, March 12th at 10AM.

There is no charge for the course. For further information, call Seymour Freeman at (516) 432-6479.

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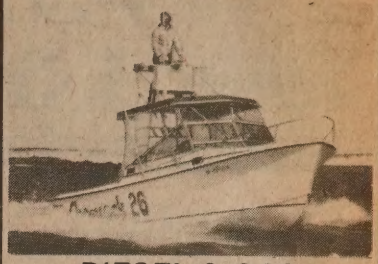

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TACKLE DOCTOR:

THE RIGHT KNOT

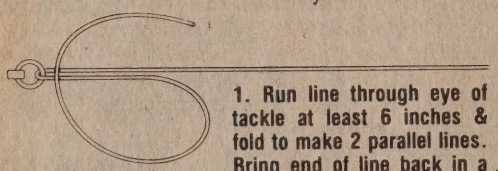
Q. When fishing bucktails, I've been told to use a knot called a universal knot or a clinch knot not pulled up tight all the way. I've never seen a universal knot and can't figure how a clinch knot would hold together if it wasn't pulled tight. Can you shed some light in my dark corner?

Ralph Manio

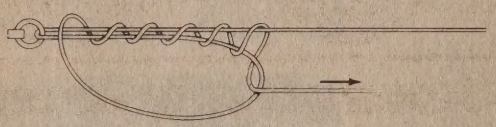
A. I believe the knot you are calling the universal knot is actually the Uni-Knot system devised by Vic Dunaway of "Florida Sportsman." The basic knot can be modified to join two lines together, snell a hook and build leaders at the end of casting and fly tackle.

The Uni-Knot is especially good for bucktailing because when the knot is drawn up, it first compresses the coils wrapped around the doubled line as shown in the accompanying diagram. You can then pull the loop closed until it is just a short distance from jamming tightly on the eye of the lure. This small loop will allow the bucktail to "swim" freely for better action.

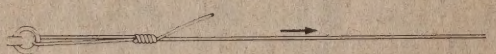
UNI-KNOT



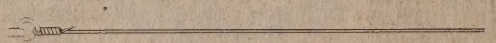
1. Run line through eye of tackle at least 6 inches & fold to make 2 parallel lines. Bring end of line back in a circle toward eye.



2. Make six turns with tag end around the double line and through the circle. Hold double line at point where it passes thru eye & pull tag end to snug up turns.

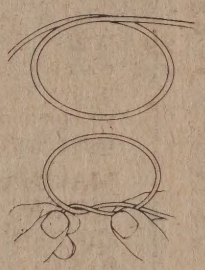


3. Now pull standing line to slide knot up against eye.



4. Continue pulling until knot is tight. Trim tag end flush with closest coil of knot. Uni-knot will not slip.

DROPPER LOOP

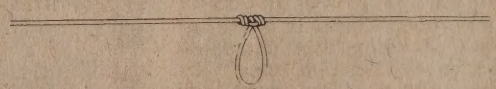


1. Form a loop in the line.

2. Pull one side of loop down and begin taking turns with it around the standing line. Keep point where turns are made open so turns gather equally on each side.

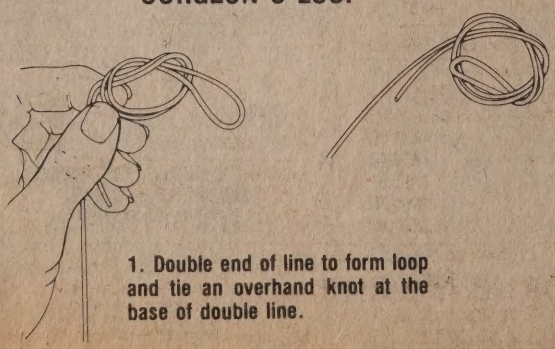
3. After eight to ten turns, reach through center opening and pull remaining loop through. Keep finger in this loop so it will not spring back.

4. Hold loop with teeth and pull both ends of line, making turns gather on both sides of loop.



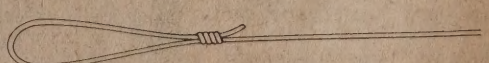
5. Set knot by pulling lines as tightly as possible. Tightening coils will make loop stand out perpendicular to line. This is not a strong knot but is useful for panfish and small saltwater species.

SURGEON'S LOOP



1. Double end of line to form loop and tie an overhand knot at the base of double line.

2. Leave loop open in knot and bring doubled line through once more.



3. Hold standing line and tag end and pull loop to tighten knot. Size of loop can be determined by pulling loose knot to desired point and holding it while knot is tightened. Clip tag end.

However, after the first good fish, the pressure from fighting the fish will close the loop tightly, so you lose the advantage of the small loop unless you re-tie the knot after a fish. Some anglers will do this after each big fish they land.

The clinch knot can be tied in a similar manner. As you draw the knot tight, the wraps coiled around the standing part of the line will compress. It is best to wet the line with saliva just before you draw the knot tight. A tug on the tag end will jam the knot closed. Pull the coils up against the eye of the hook but place a small nail, a pipe smoker's tamper, another hook or other small pointed object in-between the eye of the lure and the knot. As you draw it up tight, it will jam against the spacer, which when removed will leave a small loop at the end of the line.

We prefer the Uni-Knot to the slightly opened clinch knot since it is remotely possible that the clinch might fail as the coils slip at the instant of a strike. The Uni-Knot will not fail when tied with the small loop.

Q. I want to make up my own mackerel rigs over the winter but I'm not sure how to tie the tubes to the leader itself. I see that most rigs have small loops in the leader, but I don't know how to put them in the rig or all the points to attach the tubes. What distance apart should the tubes be?

Barney Jackson

A. There are two knots you need to be able to tie to make up your mackerel rigs: the dropper loop to add the tubes to the leader and the surgeon's loop to attach the snap from your main fishing line and the diamond jig at the bottom of the mackerel rig. Both knots are shown in the accompanying diagrams.

Start with a piece of leader material—30 pound test is fine—and make the first dropper loop about 1/3 up the leader. The loop should be large enough to later pass the mackerel tube through it. Make two more loops each about another third of the way of the length of leader. If the loops aren't perfectly spaced, don't worry. Mackerel aren't going to shy away from it.

The most important thing is to keep the dropper only large enough to accommodate the tubes. Too long a dropper causes the tubes to stand away from the rig at too great a distance, later spinning the tubes and fouling the rig. Tubes should be about 12 inches apart.

The surgeon's knot loop is placed at each end of the rig, and again, smaller loops look neater and fish better.

It may take you several attempts before you make some acceptable looking rigs, but a little practice is worth the effort.

To attach the tubes to the rig, pass the loop through the eye of one tube, then push the tube through the same loop. When you pull it tight, the loop will interlock with the eye of the tube.

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ULTRA LIGHT DELUXE: FIVE FOOT SPIN ROD

by Kevin Bogan

Being involved in both the party boat and saltwater tackle business, I've been fortunate to witness countless numbers of styles between anglers.

Party boat deckhands, who in my opinion are the sharpest of all fishermen, choose the "stiff rod and 40 lb. test" approach. This method allows them to "drown" the fish. It's not a lot of fun but it adds up for fish sales.

The small boatmen may prefer a small 6', average length rod, for fishing bucktails for fluke and weakfish. It's just another road to travel.

My preference for an ideal fun or sport rod is a 5' ultra-light. This rod usually made of fiberglass or graphite will match up with very light line weights in the 2-6 lb. class. Naturally a small setup like this has its limitations, but its usefulness is so widespread that it's certainly the kind of rod no fisherman should be without.

Blue water action can be had while fighting a jet powered bonito or bluefish on a light rod fitted with 6 lb. test. The reel will scream out loud as the drag forfeits line with each run of the fish.

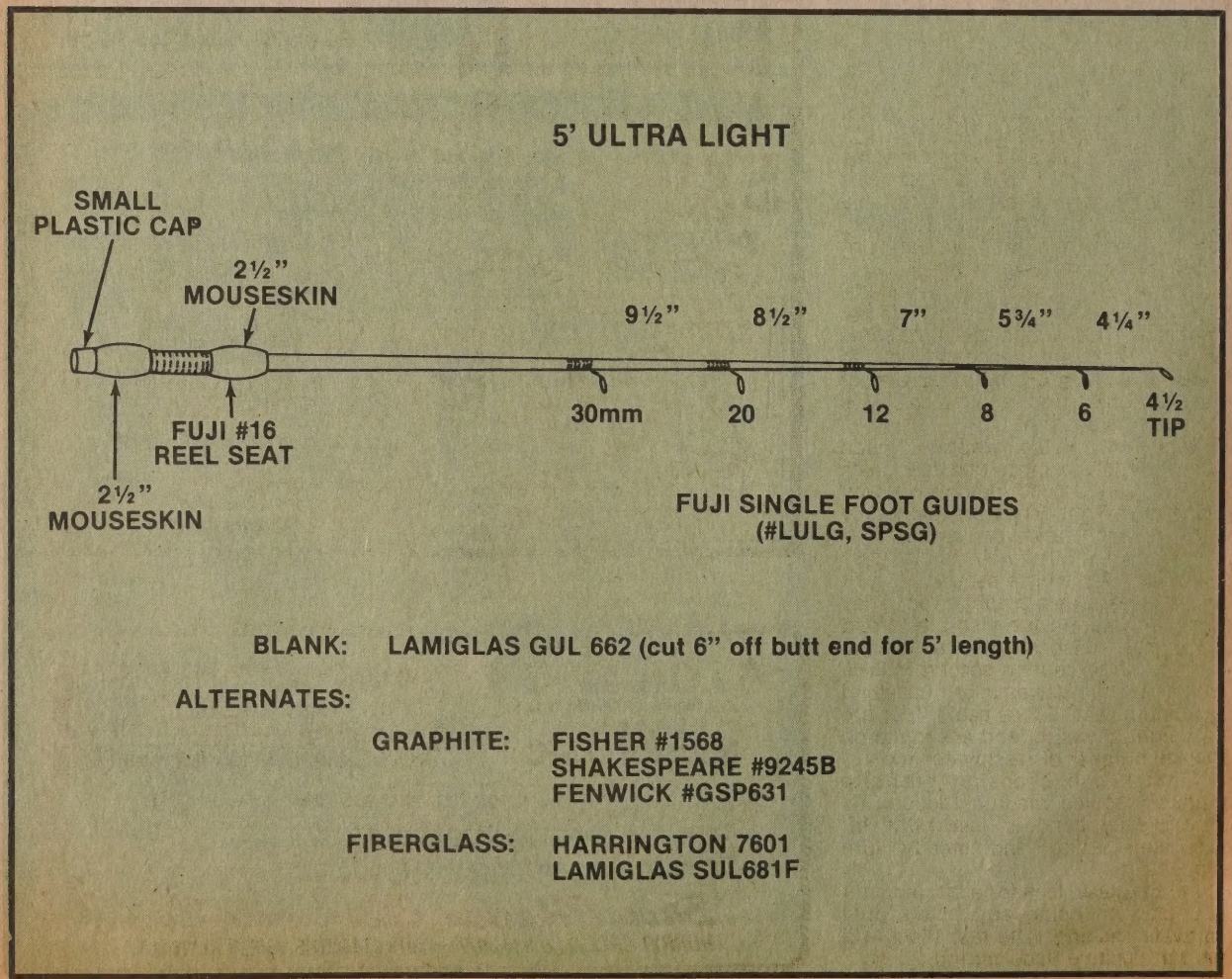
If you are into the dream-like and relaxing atmosphere of freshwater fishing, an ultra-light rod with 2-4 lb. test proves successful time and time again.

The key word here is "ultra-light." The rod, reel and line weights are the smallest obtainable, but the finished product will produce "Big" results.

Blank: Graphite blanks have often been dismissed as a choice for rods mostly on account of its extremely high cost. The good news here is that major blank manufacturers have dropped the prices of graphite over the past couple of years to make it more affordable.

Ultra-light blanks are about the least costly of all blanks anyway, so here is a good opportunity to treat yourself to a deluxe outfit without being too worried about the cost.

Graphite blanks offer a much higher "Modulas" or resistance to bending than does fiberglass. This makes the graphite rod "stiffer" than the fiberglass rod. This is a valuable feature when trying to set a hook into a fish's jaw. There's plenty of back-



bone here to do the job. This "stiffness" also produces a more sensitive rod. The blank is so rigid that the angler, with practice, will be able to tell between the light tap of a fish and the bouncing of a lure off the bottom. This extra feel could prove to be a real help when fishing slow moving baits to trout in cold water, while your hands, too, may be cold and partially numbed.

Graphite blanks are also very, very, light, making them an excellent choice as the heart of your ultra-light rod.

Guides: Fuji has two sets of guides, at two different price ranges that are no doubt the best choices on the ultra-light rod. The new "Hardloy #LVLG" and "Silicon carbide #SPSG" series guides are well worth taking a close look at. The major difference between the two products are the guide rings themselves. Hardloy is a finely polished oxide top that offers a super smooth guide surface for casting distance, prevention of line wear, and heat dissipation. I recommend these guides for their reasonable cost.

Silicon carbide offers the same features, but they have an even smoother guide ring, perhaps the smoothest of all guide rings made today. Heat loss is extremely rapid, and line wear is not even considered. All these feature are great, but the cost is very high. Again, price aside, these two guides are top guns. The main feature of these guides is their unique single foot design. A single guide foot allows the rod to flex without restriction giving the rod the true action it was designed for.

Grips: Cork grips have been chosen first on ultra-light rods due to their light weight and sensitivity. My complaint about cork is that it's a big job to install and with a few hard knocks wear out, chip or break.

Mouseskin grips come in "shaped" 2½ inch lengths that are perfect for light rods. They weigh about the same as cork, and are dense enough to transmit activity on the other end of the line. Their short length also allows for easy installation.

Reel Seat: Fuji's graphite, nylon and fiberglass composition reel seats (#FPS16) are a good match for a well made ultra-light. They are extremely light in weight and very strong. The seat transmits bites well, fits modern day spin reels with a secure snug fit and look great on a graphite rod. They come in graphite (greyish-black) and wood grain finishes for a true custom tough. An excellent second choice would be a Varmac or Lakeland aluminum seat. These seats, too, are very light in weight and are found on a large number of freshwater rods.

Tips: When choosing graphite blanks I advise medium action. Its soft, steady bend is just right for accurate casting and steady lure movement.

In fiberglass, look for a fast action if you plan on doing any heavy duty saltwater fishing. The fast taper will help in positive hook setting.

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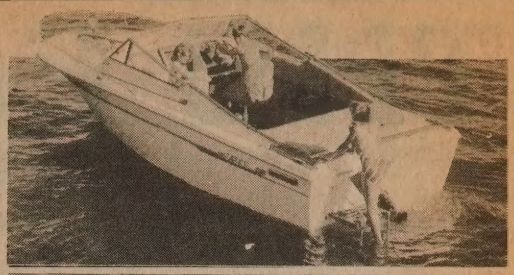

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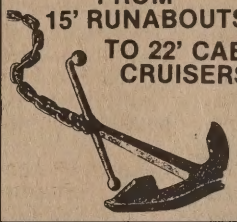

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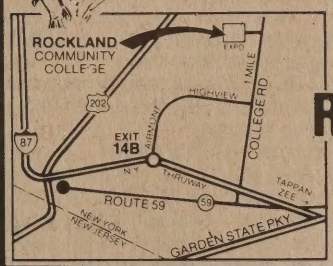

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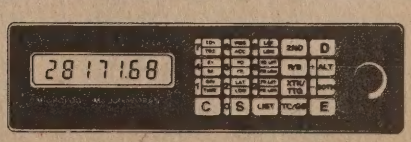

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THE EASY WAY

by Matt Ahern

According to the author, party boat fishing is a sure way to start down the road to fishing success.

It was one of those sun-bright mid-April mornings we spring flounder fishermen hope for but seldom get. I stood on the Shinnecock Canal bulkheading north of the locks and cast my clam-baited rig into the middle of the canal. My expectation? The catching of a few large Peconic Bay flounder which previous experience assured me were now a distinct possibility. But all I'd succeeded in catching so far were an occasional half-pounder so common on the Shinnecock Bay side of the locks.

Even fearless postage stamps thought highly of my bait and I had just released one when a car drove in close-by and parked. I was about to have company. Well, no matter—on the north side of the locks in mid-April there's always room for one more. But the driver made no effort to get out of his car. Instead, he rolled down the window and seemed more interested in my activity. Just another sightseer, I told myself, whereupon I dismissed him from my mind and continued to fish.

About an hour passed and I had taken several more average-sized flounder, but not one of those hoped-for large Peconic flounder did I have. I was about ready to pack it in when my observant non-fisherman opened the car door and walked over to me.

"How many did you get?" he asked. I told him. "Eight, huh. How come you're not fishing on the other side of the locks? The guys are killing 'em there."

I said that I wasn't interested in catching a lot of fish just then; all I was doing was a bit of experimenting.

"Experimenting, huh? Well, I don't know about that. Never fished saltwater in my life. I'd like to give it a whirl, though. Used to do some fishing on the lakes upstate—enough to know there's a lot more to fishing than putting bait on the hook. Say, I bet you can tell me. What's the easiest way to learn this saltwater fishing game?"

"No problem, mister," I said. "Start fishing on party boats if you want to learn this game the easy way."

Some water has flowed under the bridge since that mid-April morning and I don't know if that gentleman ever did take my advice, but it doesn't matter. If you happen to be in a similar predicament, take my word for it—if you want to learn the bottom fishing game the easy way, go party boat fishing.

Ladies are becoming a common sight aboard many open boats.

Okay, so I'm prejudiced. A guy like me who's been fooling around party boats for nearly 60 years has to be. But that doesn't say I'm wrong. I'll tell you truthfully, I've always found that those fishermen who excel at the fishing game have had all or much of their fishing experience aboard party boats. This is not to take anything away from those many good fishermen who have never trod the deck of a party boat. All I'm maintaining is that party boat fishing is the easiest way to learn the game.

And I can also truthfully say that in all those nearly 60 years of hard fishing aboard party boats I've never been skunked. But don't let me mislead you here. There were times, for instance, when I went codfishing and failed to catch even one—but I caught other fish: ling, whiting, pollack, or whatever. And I recall one time going for ling when we unexpectedly hit into cod so thick, the skipper alone caught 105! I kid you not. I wrote about this great day several years ago in an old-timer story.

But back to today's party boat activities and why I think this type of fishing offers the easiest way to learn the game.

No party boat skipper can guarantee action, but they come very close to it. Seldom does the party boat fisherman fail to return with fish. There's good reason for this.

Never lose sight of the fact that many party boat skippers have been in the business for as long as a half-century. There's nothing about our local fish and where to find them that these professionals don't know. As I've said, I've been fooling around party boats for a long, long time, but I am as a child when it comes to the knowledge these great fishermen possess. They never cease to amaze me. Just when I think I've seen everything, they come up with something entirely unexpected. That's why they can practically guarantee action. They know. Actually, I never blame the skipper when I have a slow day, but I most certainly blame the fish that deserted the grounds the skipper selected.

Depending upon time of year, fishermen often have several varieties of fish from which to choose. A choice can be made by reading the latest reports as they appear in The Fisherman. I think it is a good idea to also check out the day's fishing results at dockside on the day before you intend going. You can also check by calling the skipper the evening before your planned trip. If the weather holds, a duplicate of the day's fishing can be expected.

As for weather, party boat fishermen leaving ports from Long Island and New Jersey should only be deterred when **strong** winds blow from the northeast, east, southeast, south and southwest. These winds make for tough fishing conditions along our coast. Under these conditions, most party boats remain in port. Rain in itself means nothing; you'll find it

often knocks down a heavy sea.

Arrive at dockside early—don't be a sleepyhead—not if you wish to become a good fisherman. Don't show up ten minutes before scheduled leaving time and expect to get a choice spot at the rail. Often, you'll find your party boat long departed, especially when a good run of fish is on. With a capacity crowd on board, there's no point in waiting for leaving time. Always allow yourself plenty of time. And for goodness sake, don't concern yourself over what you will do while waiting for leaving time. You won't be bored, I'll guarantee you. You'll meet some of the grandest fishermen ever, this I can also guarantee you. you might even, like me, make lifetime friends.

Another important thing. It isn't necessary to invest in the needed tackle the first few times. Suitable tackle can be rented for the day aboard all party boats for a nominal fee. If you find this type of fishing is not for you (which I seriously doubt), nothing is lost. You can't beat that arrangement.

Bottom feeding fish are easily caught (most times), though it isn't as simple as hitting the ocean floor and reeling in fish, as some would have you believe. Some fish, such as ling, can be allowed to take the bait for a moment, but with others, such as the rapidly-biting porgy, it is best to set the hook the instant the fish is felt. This know-how can only be learned through experience. There's no other way.

You'll find the only bottom fish difficult to hook is the blackfish; with this wily cuss, the angler should wait until a good, solid tug is felt before attempting to set the hook. Watch the veteran blackfisherman in action. You will learn more from him in five minutes than from hours of trial and error.

Should you hook into a large fish, play it carefully, and don't become excited. (A tall order, I know.) Actually, I don't know exactly what to tell you here. Not too long ago I read an article on how to fight a big fish, or at least an out-sized fish. The author said not to panic because if the fish is well hooked, it can't get away. Which is fine, but tell me, how does one know if the fish is well hooked? I've caught my share of good-sized fish over the year, but until they were decked I didn't know if I'd had them well hooked or not. Want a bit of advice? Play each large fish as if you had it by the skin of its mouth—then you can't go wrong. And don't let anyone con you into hurrying up. You just take your time—it's your fish, especially so if you handle it right.

And when you've got that fish on the surface, don't attempt to lift it aboard without the aid of a net or gaff. I can tell you some sad tales about this. Be sure to keep the fish's head in the water; failure to do this will cause the frightened fish to thrash about, quite possibly breaking the line or wrenching free of the hook.

Be careful unhooking any fish known to have sharp teeth, particularly bluefish and fluke. It is sometimes necessary to stun the fish with a billy before removing the hook with pliers or hook disgorger. Don't take unnecessary chances with those powerful jaws. And don't forget, there may also be a temporarily forgotten second hook whirling around. Take no chances! When you've got experience behind you, you'll do all these things automatically, but in the beginning, take heed.

Now—rail positions.

Many party boat fishermen prefer fishing from the stern of their vessel. No doubt they feel this gives them an advantage over their fellow fishermen. I can't see it that way myself; I know just as many large fish, including pool winners, are taken along both sides of the boat up to the bow. Especially the bow. (Most of my pool winning cod and fluke have been taken from the bow.) The only advantage the stern has is that it does offer shelter on those miserable cold days. But tradition says the stern is best and many fishermen will flock there, some arriving hours before sailing time to assure themselves of this spot. Well—to each his own. Remember—it is the skill of the fisherman that fills the bucket, not a choice rail location.

When the day's fishing is over, the wise fisherman cleans his catch on the way back to port. Not only will fish keep better when this is done, but it's not much fun removing fish scales from the kitchen furniture. (You know who will appreciate this, too.)

If the busy mate can manage it, he will gladly clean your catch for you. Don't forget a remuneration is in order for this chore. And try to make arrangements for this as soon as possible; other fishermen often have the same idea.

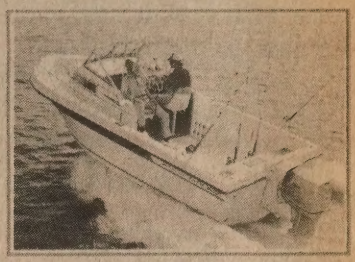
I think it is to your advantage to learn how to clean fish as soon as possible. It isn't difficult and if you spend a few minutes watching it being done, you'll get the hang of it—enough so that you won't be dependent upon others. Again—it is experience which is the great teacher here. Besides, fish-cleaning is all part of becoming a well-rounded fisherman.

Party boat "regulars" are a special breed unto themselves. They offer fine companionship (especially to the beginner), are master fishermen without peer, and I sincerely believe that you will seldom meet a finer group of men. They'll help you with your problems, so don't despair when you see them catching fish with machine-like precision. They know how it is to so desperately want fish and they'll cheerfully help out.

One thing is certain. Party boat fishing will make of you an excellent fisherman much sooner than you thought possible. It may not be the only road toward this goal, but it's one of the best.

And isn't that what you want?

1983
Grady-White



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A TREATISE ON SALTWATER FLIES

by Don Avondolio

A saltwater fly fisherman's most important decision during any particular fishing trip may well be his choice of fly pattern. Color, shape, length of fly and action are variables that must be considered before making that first cast. A freshwater fly fisherman seeking the wily trout will "match the hatch" with a fly pattern that looks like the insect or bait prevalent in the stream. In comparison, when in the salt, the fly-rodder uses flies which simulate favortie aquatic prey that predators feed on. By studying the water of a particular area being fished, the angler can determine what food is available for these predators to feed on. Consequently, the serious angler can accumulate many different saltwater patterns that might fulfill the expectations of the particular areas fished. The degree of accuracy (or imitation) is really up to the angler and his or her philosophy of tying. Some anglers may feel that accurate duplication of prey is not important. They might think that any undulating, lively moving fly will attract and catch the most stubborn feeding predator. But, in opposition are the purists of fly tyers, believing that only a realistic replica of the prey will catch fish. Realistic meaning that size, color, silhouette and action are duplicated to extreme.

Well, I somewhat favor the latter philosophy. Many fishing experiences have convinced me to believe that accuracy of matching the prevalent bait is most important. When using jelly worms, or surgical tubes in non-fly fishing trips, choice of color and length of artificials has proved time and time again to be the important criteria. Changing color or length has made the difference between success and failure in catching fish.

Ask yourself how many times has the difference between a yellow plug versus another color plug in Montauk's surf proved to be the difference? Or how many times has the plug's silhouette, or action proved to be significant when worked in the suds? Common sense dictates that to increase your odds of fishing success, we should use an artificial closely resembling the predator's food supply. Why waste time using an unnatural artificial unless some logical reason tells us it will work. If a school of blues is rampaging and feeding ravenously through a school of trapped baitfish, a different situation exists. Any lively artificial lure cast, and worked through the school will attract a strike; but this often is not the situation. Usually the single, stalking blue, bass, or weak will be hunting for food cautiously, and will choose his prey carefully. I will concede that there are times when a predator will take an unnatural looking lure. Sometimes these fish

think that the artificial lure is a threat to their lair, or position. Also the appearance of a slow moving artificial appearing to be alive, wounded, or an easy prey can produce a strike. Possibly, low frequency sound waves produced, maybe flash, or murky water conditions are contributing reasons. Nevertheless, accurate replicas of baitfish, prey, etc., can also produce sound, flash, and a sense of life and still be more natural looking.

To further support the theory of accurate pattern tying, "Lefty" Kreh stated in one of his articles the importance of painting large eyes on flies. "Large eyes should be a standard on many saltwater patterns, and they do contribute to increased strikes." Another interesting fact was presented by a well known writer in his book concerning physiological aspects of fish. A particular aspect is the ability of fish to distinguish colors during the day when light intensity is one candle power or better. Furthermore, when light is less than one candle power, usually at sunset, sunrise, or at night the eyes of the fish are not as sensitive in distinguishing color. Interesting to note, is that at this time, because of the nature of eye sensitivity, black and white are the only two colors seen. We could conclude from this statement that during low light level fishing, patterns using color schemes would appear only in tones of black or white to fish. It's also important to understand what happens to color (during daylight hours) that is observed underwater. Natural sunlight is composed of all the colors of the rainbow. When colors enter water, some are filtered out. Fluorescent colors continue to glow underwater and show no significant change. Fluorescent materials are used for tying attractor style flies. When fishing deep waters, reds, oranges and yellows are lost in decreasing order as you descend to 10 feet or better. At 40 feet, they respectively change to black, dark brown and pale yellow. The least colors to change are green, blue, white and black, which remain consistent to 60 feet. Also realize that murky water contributes to a significant loss of color recognition. In summation, when preparing your saltwater fly patterns, analyze where they are to be used, at what depths and the water conditions to be encountered.

For further discussion, we could categorize the most popular saltwater prey into several unique groups such as baitfish, crustaceans, and miscellaneous (squid, sand eels and cinderworm). All of these groups can be tied as "imitator" groups of flies for saltwater usage. A chart showing imitator groups of flies indicates standard silhouettes, and natural colors for reference. Most baitfish colors are divided into three levels, starting with top and finishing with bottom, or belly level. An ideal way of creating the three color level fly which appears to be the natural objective when tying baitfish imitator patterns is to use the three level body or wing technique. Using the properly colored material, tie bottom or belly level on hook shank, then successively tie middle and top level using color schemes shown in table. One method of achieving horizontal stripes needed for the mullet pattern is to tie pieces of polyethylene sheets adjacent to hook shank (each side tied at hook eye). Horizontal bars can then be added to plastic material using permanent ink marking pen. Use your own imagination and tie your flies following recommended color schemes. There are a multitude of materials on the market to keep you active for some hours. Experiment until your pattern satisfies you and then try it in the salt.

Attractor flies, or unnatural patterns are used in fly fishing under certain conditions. They can be used as back-up flies instead of imitator flies especially when murky water conditions are present. Attractor styles include noise producers such as poppers or bushy flies tied palmer style. Palmer style signifies the winding of hackle around the shank at right angles. This style basically breathes, or pulses when stripped in short pulls. Large bushy flies and palmer wound types produce low frequency sound waves picked up by a predator's sensor, or lateral line. Generally, surface popping artificials are used in calm waters to add an additional attraction—noise. The majority of game fish feed deep below the surface and will respond to a deep worked fly, but surface poppers do catch a good majority of fish and should be included in your collection. Attractor types also include gaudy, brightly tied flies that are easily visible during daylight or under the light of a full moon. Flash is presented as a major attractor by tying mylar or reflective tape strips to the sides of patterns. Braided mylar piping used by upholstery firms for trim on chairs, furniture, etc., is another innovative material used for producing flash.

Dyed bucktail and saddle hackle can be part of attractor fly construction if the colors chosen are either yellow, or bright orange. Both colors are extremely visible at long distances and will contrast nicely against bottom formations.

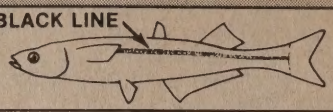
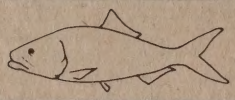
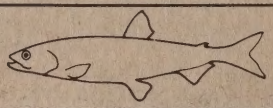
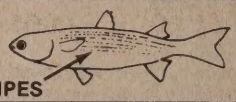
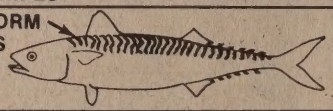
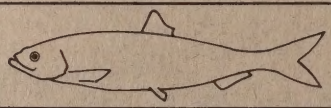
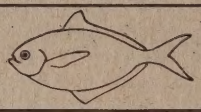
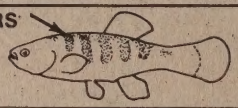
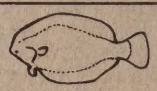
The choice of tying materials to either create or copy imitator patterns is endless. Most marketed materials are reasonable in price and can be obtained through local tackle shops or mail order houses specializing in fly fishing materials. Hooks can be sheathed in soft fur, feathers, maribou, bucktail, chenille, floss, wool, and synthetics such as FisHair, dynel, acrylic and polypropylene. The synthetics can be purchased in lengths up to 12 inches to create the super long, undulating patterns sometimes needed. Crinkled nylon and textured FisHair are used to imitate various baitfish body colors. A dubbing process, which is basically weaving fine material such as seal fur, orlon, etc., around tying thread, creates many body colors and styles. The thread is dubbed and then wound around the hook shank to produce a baitfish silhouette. This process is excellent for tying shrimp or other crustacean patterns.

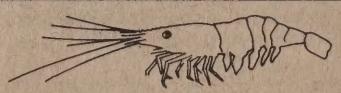
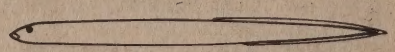
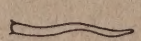
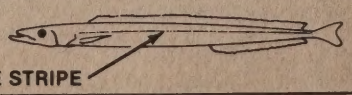
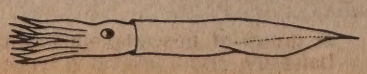
One outstanding technique for creating a realistic silhouette needed for baitfish imitator patterns is the matuka wing method. By tying matuka wing style we have changed the effect of a standard wing tie. The standard wing tie produces a scissor effect when stripped through the water. The matuka wing is lashed down at the hook bend, keeping it in a straight line when retrieved. The feather fibers flare upwards forming a more natural looking silhouette. Also the possibility of feather tangles around the hook bend is almost entirely eliminated. Other important tying techniques are explained in lengthy details and really belong in another article. Several excellent books describing them include Eric Leiser's **Complete Book of Fly Tying** and Ken Bay's **Salt Water Flies.**

Most saltwater flies are tied on standard shank length hooks made from stainless steel. Popular styles are Mustad #34007, or Eagle Claw #254SS. Sizes vary from 4, 6, and 8 for shrimp patterns to 1/0, 2/0 and 3/0 for baitfish flies. All hooks should be sharpened prior to tying for best efficiency. Use a "wood scrapers" file such as the Red Devil #15. Hook penetration must be quick to prevent excess strain on light leader tippets. At certain times, long shank hooks are used, especially when longer denser body silhouettes are required. A squid imitator fly is one example. Another reason for the long shank hook is obvious to bluefishermen. The extra shank length provides some protection from the sharp teeth of this fish, since blues will grab a bait from the rear. A keel fly hook is an unusual type of hook used in saltwater. It is constructed with the hook point made to ride upwards. A bend in the front portion offers stability. With the hook riding upwards and when wing-tied properly, the fly is amost 100 percent weed-proof. To present an enticing wiggle during retrieve, I would suggest a pattern in the tandem tie style. By using mono or monel wire, we can attach two flies together giving the appearance of a jointed action. The first knot is made at the front hook eye; then tie the mono along the shank past the hook bend. Attach the mono to the eye of the second hook and complete patterns on both flies. Because of the extra casting weight created, most tandem flies must be tied on smaller hooks.

Weight has always affected casting efficiency when fly fishing in windy areas; therefore, sink rates of flies are another item that must be considered. Basically the size of hook, type of feather or hair, and quantity of material determines the degree of buoyancy. As a guide, body materials

(Continued on next page.)

BAITFISH	APPEARANCE	COLOR 1-TOP 2-MIDDLE 3-BOTTOM
SPEARING		1 BLUE/GREEN OR OLIVE 2 SILVER 3 WHITE
BUNKER		1 BLUE/GREEN OR BROWN 2 SILVER (YELLOW TINGE) 3 WHITE
SMELT		1 BROWN OR BLUE 2 SILVER 3 WHITE
MULLET		1 GREY OR GREEN 2 WHITE 3 WHITE
TINKER MACKEREL		1 BLACK/GREEN 2 SILVER 3 WHITE
HERRING		1 BLUE 2 SILVER 3 WHITE
BUTTERFISH		1 GREY/BLUE 2 SILVER 3 WHITE
KILLIE*		1 GREEN/OLIVE 2 YELLOW/WHITE 3 WHITE
FLOUNDER		1 DARK BROWN 2 3 WHITE

MISC. IMITATOR BAIT	APPEARANCE	COLOR 1-TOP 2-MIDDLE 3-BOTTOM
SAND SHRIMP*		TRANSLUCENT WHITE BLOTCHY BROWN BODY
GRASS SHRIMP*		TRANSLUCENT WHITE GREEN BODY
EEL		1 GREEN/BROWN 2 YELLOW/BROWN 3 WHITE
CINDERWORM		ORANGE/BROWN BODY
SANDLAUNCE (SAND EEL)		1 BROWN/BLUE OR OLIVE 2 SILVER 3 WHITE
SQUID*		DARK GREY BODY

* COLOR CHANGES TO ADAPT TO SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

such as polypropylene K Dub, or animal fur, beaver, muskrat, otter, or mink are very buoyant.

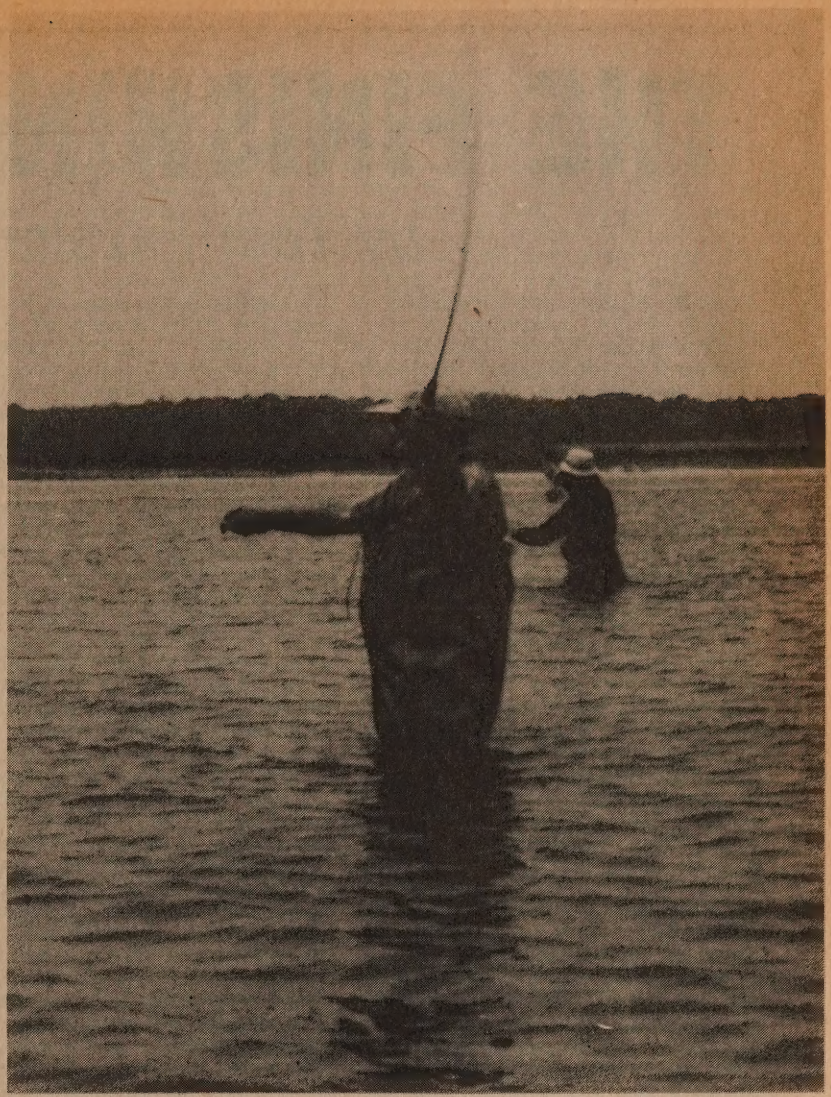
The animals mentioned live in the water and their fur provides the best quality of buoyancy. Conversely, if you prefer a fast sinking fly, use a material that absorbs water readily, such as rabbit fur, wool, and ultra-dub materials. Additional weight to increase your fly sink rate can be added by tying lead wire around the hook shank in tight coils. Appreciate the fact that fly lines of various sink rates will also sink flies with amazing speed. The fly being unweighted will then tend to rise as high as your leader permits.

To really experience the effect of a particular pattern, we should test the action in the water prior to usage. When wet the average fly tends to lose bulk and sometimes can even deceive the tyer by producing an unnatural action. Several tested patterns have failed terribly producing uneven action when submerged in water with simulated water flow. Either the layered wing material was tied off center causing the unbalanced effect or, too much material was used reducing wiggle considerably.

To conclude the subject, if you choose to tie and use imitator flies, analyze your potential fishing grounds and categorize them. Facts such as bait prevalent, amount of light available, and depth of water are to be considered. Then prudently tie patterns according to data accumulated. Complete patterns in lengths of bait prevalent. Test flies in actual or simulated water conditions. Also collect popular "attractor" patterns as flies for specific water conditions. Remember, presentation of flies is important, natural action attracts predators. Of course, a dead drift or wounded action can be deadly at times too, so vary your stripping action until success is achieved.

A saltwater fly treatise should include several "classical" patterns for reference in your collection. Baitfish "imitator" patterns that have proven records for effectiveness are Lefty's Deceiver, McNally's Smelt, Whitlock's Prismatic, D'Allesandro's Balsa Fly, Shelter Island, Weakfish Fly, Double Blonde Series, and flies tied either Thundercreek, or Matuka style. Shrimp patterns include the Boyle Shrimp, Snapping Shrimp, and Sater's Shrimp Fly. Dan Blanton's Sea Arrow Squid, and Eelworm are two good miscellaneous patterns. Bob Church's Sand Eel, and Lou Tabory's Sand Eel are excellent replicas of the popular pattern. To complete the collection, add several "attractor" patterns such as the Loving Bass Fly, McNally Magnum, Tarpon Fly, and a typical "popper" like the Ka-Boom Boom.

Hopefully, we've cleared up some of the mysteries of saltwater fly pattern selection and construction within these pages. In the weeks ahead, we'll cover the construction of a couple of favorite saltwater patterns.



A pair of Salty Fly Rodders work the Shelter Island shore line during the club's annual rally.

A group of miscellaneous saltwater flies including popper, attractor, balsa fly, and 3 level tied types.

THE FINISHING TOUCH

by Tom Fitzsimmons

The final and perhaps most important process in the completion of any homemade item is the finish that is applied. If the application of the finish is not done correctly, it can ruin the entire project. The same is true for the final step in the construction of a new fishing rod or the refinishing of an old one.

A good finish on the rod wraps is essential to protect them from water damage, from inadvertenly hitting the wraps (thereby fraying the threads and causing the guides to become loose), and to provide a smooth, clean and professional appearance to a project you have spent many hours to create.

Care in the selection of a finish is very important. If a particular material is chosen solely because it will dry fast so you can use the rod right away, or because it can applied in one coat, constant use of the rod and the effects of time and the elements will only reward you with an early refinishing project. There are a number of qualities that you should require from a good finish, the most important of which should be its flexibility. As you well know, a fishing rod bends much more than the foot of the guides, and this requires the finish to provide a certain amount of elasticity. If the finish is too rigid or brittle it can ruin the action of the rod, or crack and peel off.

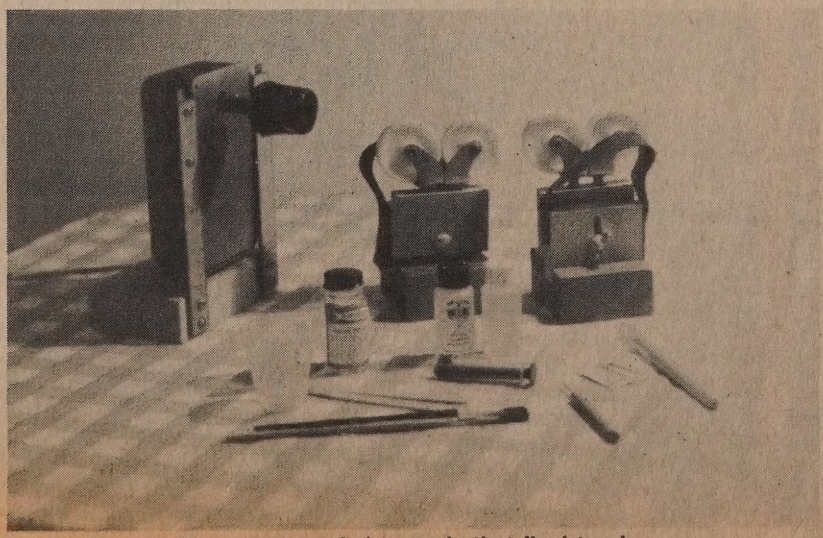
A good finish should also be able to be applied easily and thinly enough to avoid too much build-up on the threads, thereby reducing the weight and rigidity that can again spoil the action of the rod. However, a thicker build-up at the butt section where the decorative wraps are located will be more of a benefit to protect them, and therefore outweighs any effect this may have on the action. But the closer you get to the tip of the rod, which bends more readily, the more critical the amount of this build-up becomes, as this added weight from too much finish could dampen and change the desired action. And finally, the finish should also provide good adhesive and abrasive characteristics. If it does not adhere properly, repeated use will soon separate it from the threads and it will peel. The finish must stand up to the constant abuse we all put our fishing rods through so that the threads will not be damaged and the wraps will maintain their good appearance.

There are basically three types of finishes: epoxies, polymers and varnishes. The latter, varnish, is the oldest of the finishes mentioned. It has a thin consistency, and can be thinned even further by commercial thinners. I have found that thinning the varnish and standing the bottle in a cup filled with hot water to heat it slightly yields the best results. A successful application of varnish will require approximately eight to twelve coats to produce a glass-like finish. Varnish has very good flexibility, but will give the wraps a slight amber color and will continue, over a period of time, to yellow.

Epoxy finishes should be the two-part type, for these are by far the strongest. They are flexible and will withstand the constant use that we all give our fishing rods. A good guide for selecting an epoxy is its curing time. The longer the curing time of the epoxy, the better it will stand up. Again, as with all finishes, the thinner the consistency the better. Epoxies, when applied over base coats of color preserver, will as with varnish, give a slight amber color; but if used over darker colored threads this will not be an objectionable problem. The best epoxy of this type, I have found, is Crystal Coat, which can be purchased by mail order from Dale Clemens Custom Tackle in Pennsylvania. It is, I feel, the best by far for light action and most surf fishing rods, where greater flexibility is required due to constant casting.

Polymers are also two-part mixtures. One type of polymer finish, sold under the brand name of Flex-Coat, is probably the most widely used brand in our area and can be purchased at most tackle stores. Its popularity is based upon a number of reasons: first, it is clear and will not amber when applied over color preserver; second, it is thicker and can usually be applied in one coat; and third, it is flexible within limits. Polymers, I feel, are better used on rods where the added weight of the build-up will not interfere with the action, such as heavy surf rods used for bait fishing.

The biggest problem I have found is that this type of mixture sets quickly; therefore you should work with small amounts at a time. This way you will not be rushing to coat the wraps before the set begins, and you will have more time to apply the finish with care, using thinner coats, and



The basics needed to apply that final touch.

Roll the blank so that the finish c

thereby possibly eliminating some of the weight.

Once the guides have been wrapped, the decorative butt wrap is finished and you have made the final alignment to the guides, you are ready to prepare to apply the finish. But first, let's consider a few precautions.

The humidity at the time you work is an important factor—all finishes should be applied in low humidity. If the humidity is too high, epoxies and varnishes will dry too slowly, polymers will begin to set much too quickly, and color preserver will blush and turn a whitish tint.

The room you use to finish your rod should also be as free of dust as possible. As with most of us who apply finish in the basement, you should try to work after most of the family activity has ended for the day; this way anyone walking on the floor above will not cause dust and dirt to be loosened from the ceiling. Vacuum the area prior to the time you begin to work to remove larger particles of dirt and dust, and wait at least half an hour to allow any remaining dust to settle.

Now that this is taken care of and you have set your rod up on V-blocks or rollers so you can rotate it as you apply the finish, you are ready to begin.

Start by taking a tack cloth and removing all dirt and dust from the rod blank and wraps with a gentle rubbing motion. Next lightly burnish the threads with a smooth rounded tool; this pushes the threads tightly together and also flattens out the roundness, closing the gaps between all the threads. This is again a good time to use the tack cloth to remove any remaining dust and dirt.

I prefer in almost all cases, even when using N.C.P. threads, to apply a number of coats of color preserver first to soak into and seal the threads. I generally apply at least four coats, but remember to wait at least 24 hours between the first and second coats, again using the tack cloth in-between. If at this stage blushing occurs from high humidity or applying another coat before it is fully dry, another coat will usually eliminate it when applied at low humidity. Color preserver should be applied as thinly as possible and can also be heated slightly, as with varnish, by standing the bottle in a cup of hot water as you use it. Make sure when applying the color preserver that you completely saturate the threads on each side of the foot of the guide and seal off the opening at the inside where the guide foot meets the wrap.

After the final coat of color preserver has been allowed to dry for at least 24 hours, and you have again used your tack cloth to remove the dust, you are now ready for the final finish.

The Flex-Coat Company sells small packs of brushes, plastic cups and popsicle sticks to aid in the application of their finish. First read the manufacturer's instructions, then remove the two syringes from the package of Flex-Coat and draw exactly equal proportions of the resin and hardener from the containers, depositing each portion in a small plastic or glass container. Mix this very thoroughly for approximately two minutes.

Working time with Flex-Coat, as I mentioned earlier, is critical. I've found that mixing about 2 cc. at a time allows you to work the finish properly without rushing.

Now that you have finished mixing, apply Flex-Coat to the wraps quickly, and as thinly as possible while the mixture is workable. Extend the finish approximately one-eighth of an inch beyond the end of the threads onto the blank itself. As I finish the wrap at each guide, I make it a practice to begin to rotate the rod slowly with one hand so the Flex-Coat does not run or sag, and continue this until all the wraps are completed. After you have finished coating all the wraps, let the polymer set about five minutes while still rotating the rod. This will allow the finish to soak into the threads and any bubbles to rise to the surface. Then level your finish with lengthwise brush strokes.

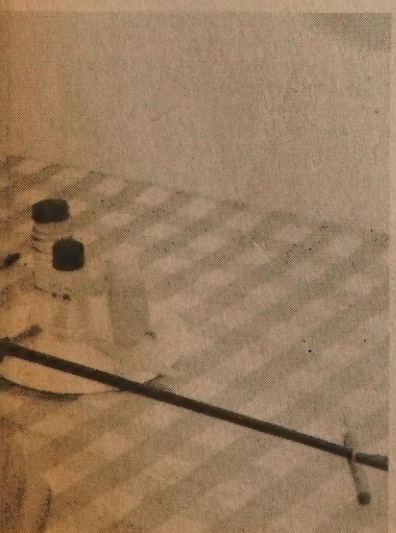
If a bubble appears at the surface after your final leveling strokes, you might try getting as close as possible to the bubble and gently exhale (not blow) on it to break the bubble; the mixture will usually self-level to cover the void left by the bubble. If more than one coat is required, it may be applied after 24 hours without any surface preparation to the initial coat.

A very helpful item, I have found, to stop the finish from sagging, is a barbeque motor which can keep the rod revolving while the finish is drying. You can usually obtain one from an old barbeque or a garage sale for a few dollars. A butt cap attached to the motor shaft will help to hold the rod in place.

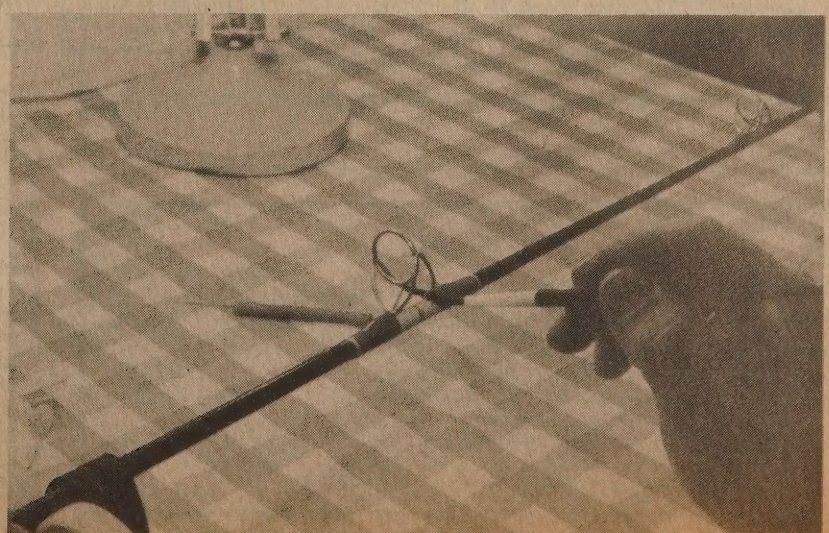
Now that you have finished admiring your work (and well you should!), it's time to attach the butt section to the butt cap on the barbeque motor, and support the rod with the V blocks at two points so the rod does not bind when turning. Wrap a few turns of masking tape to the butt grip and onto the butt cap on the motor. This will ensure added protection, preventing the rod from disengaging with the motor unit. If you don't have a motor, rotate the rod by hand at least one half turn every 15 minutes to keep the finish from sagging. Move around as little as possible while the finish is drying to prevent any dust from settling onto the wraps.

Allow the finished rod to dry for at least 48 hours before using, making sure the cure is not tacky as may happen when the rod is finished in high humidity, or from an unequal mixture.

Now you are ready to proudly display your new rod to all your friends for their admiring inspection, knowing you have done your best to produce a professional looking fishing rod that will give you great satisfaction in the upcoming season when that first hit is felt and you set the hook in your first fish.



off the brush onto the windings.



Be sure to apply finish to space between guide feet.

SOME SOUND ADVICE FOR TRAILER BOATMEN

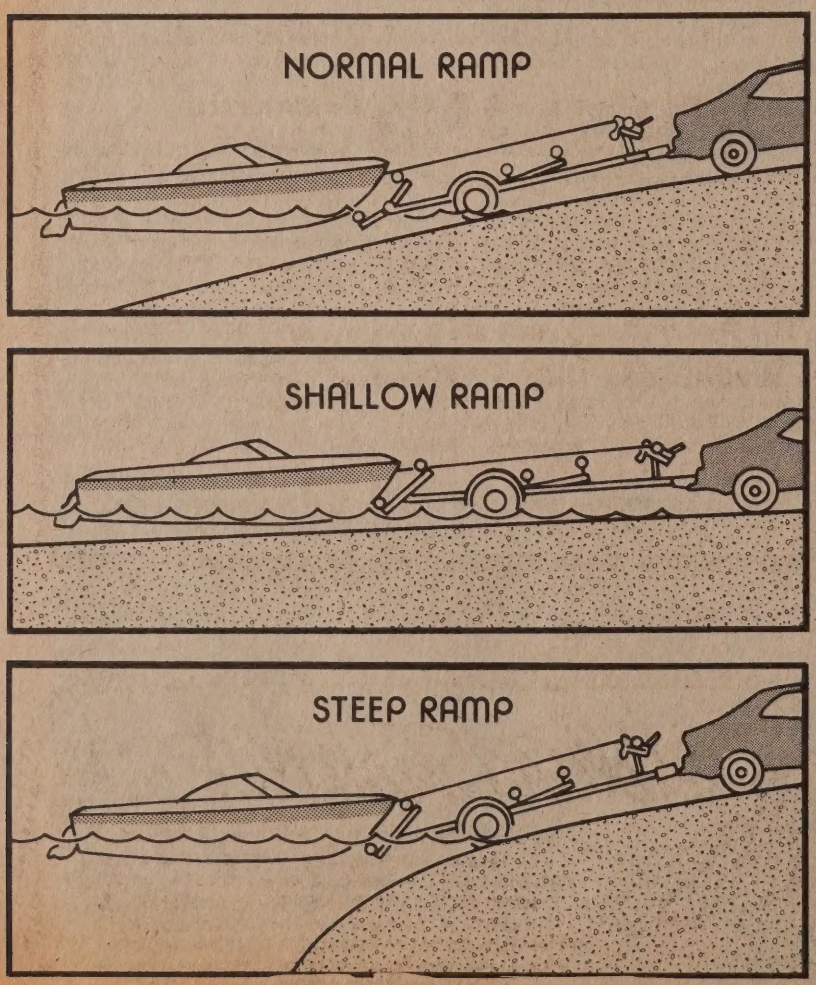
by Gene Zarcone

An experienced trailer boat angler relates some of what he has learned while trailering around the Island.

When you purchase the best boat you can afford, why skimp when it comes to a trailer? Such practice could turn your fishing trips into outings you would just as soon forget.

When searching for a boat trailer, you will find three types on the market—the first is the Float-on. It appears to be the ideal trailer, but should you use a shallow ramp, you may encounter some problems. The next question to consider is whether or not the trailer will give the boat the same support on the bottom as when it is in the water. The answer in the case of a float-on is no, as I will discuss in greater detail later.

A second type of boat trailer is the type that splits just in front of the trailer bed. During launching, this type has a tendency to dump the boat off, and you stand a chance of damaging the bottom of the boat if it hits the ramp. Launching without "breaking" the trailer can alleviate the chances of this happening, however. If faced with a steep ramp, you could be faced with great difficulty trying to get the boat back on the trailer because the boat is being pulled almost straight up and the trailer won't come down. Again, however, you can retrieve your boat without "breaking" the trailer.



A trailer need not be submerged even on the worst of ramps.

The third type of trailer is the E-Z Loader type. This trailer can handle any ramp, whether it's shallow, steep, or normal. The pivoting rollers will allow you to lower your boat gently into the water without any assistance. When you are loading your boat, it will automatically be guided and centered by these same pivoting rollers.

I previously mentioned bottom support for your boat. The E-Z Loader type trailer gives the most bottom support possible. You are probably wondering why bottom support is so important out of the water. If you don't have extraordinary bottom support, it is possible to develop a hook in your hull. A hook in your boat's hull will decrease your speed and increase your gas consumption. To check for a hook, take a straight, eight foot piece of wood and place it along the center of the boat bottom. If it doesn't line up flush with the bottom, your boat most likely has a hook. If you are unsure, take the boat to your dealer and let him check it out.

Once you've decided on which model trailer to purchase, your dealer can advise you on which size trailer is best suited to your needs.

Once you have put together an efficient boat/trailer package, you may still encounter some problems. Among them, your car and trailer may sway while under way. This swaying is generally caused by a lack of tongue weight. In order to reach the necessary tongue weight, you must move the trailer axle back about three inches. This redistributing of weight forward will usually solve the problem. If it doesn't, move the axle back a bit more until it stops. The third situation which could arise is that of your car bumper nearly touching the ground once the trailer is connected to it. You now have too much tongue weight. Simply move the trailer axle forward. The car should now sit just a little lower in the back, instead of nearly dragging the ground.

When you reach the launching

ramp, don't just back up to it and put the boat in to the water. Take the time to check to see whether it's a shallow, deep, or normal ramp. This should help in launching your boat properly. Also before launching, grease your Bearing Buddies (see Trailer Improvements—LIF #7). I recommend this because the grease in your bearing is warm from traveling, permitting water to rush in. The fresh grease in the bearing will act as a seal and prevent the saltwater from penetrating.

Returning from a great day of fishing, it is time to load the boat back onto the trailer. Make sure you have chocks behind your back wheels so that you won't lose your car. If the tide is down and your back wheels are on the slippery part of the ramp, someone should get into the car and depress the brakes. Even with the chocks and back wheels on the slippery part of the ramp, you could still lose it; so it is imperative to take such precautions under these conditions.

Supposing you have a power winch, when you are ready to retrieve your boat, take a piece of string and attach it to your winch's off/on switch. I recommend attaching a string to your winch because it is possible that the cable could snap. This is a potentially dangerous situation, so please attach the string and stand away. The trailer is designed to align your boat properly so that you don't have to stand next to it. Above all, stay away from the cable!

Something else to consider at the close of a fishing trip are wet brakes. When the car and trailer are moving away from the ramp, depress the brake a few times. This will help to dry the brake linings. Wet brakes will not stop any vehicle, so I strongly advise you to make sure that your brakes are dry before going onto any major road.

Finally, it is wise to make a few car modifications when doing any heavy trailering. Number one on my list is a transmission cooler. When an automatic transmission heats up, the fluid inside starts to burn and turn brown. This is caused by the extra load being pulled. Most car manufacturers do not design cars for trailering. Using a cooler will allow the transmission to operate at its designed temperature and will not harm it. If you don't use a transmission cooler, I can almost guarantee you a repair cost of $600.

The next small modification to consider is adding air shocks. This will allow you to adjust the back of your car according to the load being carried. The shocks are great because if you have your tongue weight correct, and you are carrying additional passengers and equipment in the trunk, you have the ability to level the car.

Putting as much thought and effort into trailering as you do into your boat and fishing equipment, will ensure a season full of fishing trips that you will remember with fondness.

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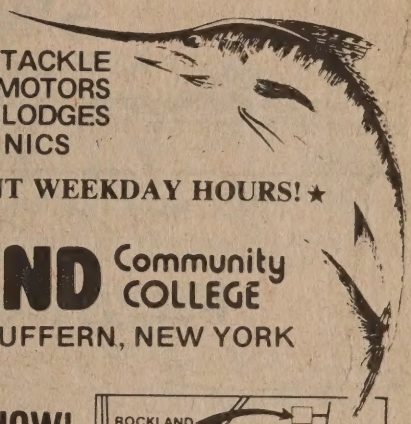

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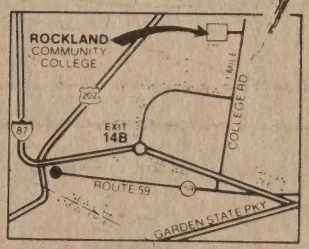

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ANGELO PELUSO— SATURDAY, MARCH 26— 10A.M.-12:30P.M.

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"ON THE ROAD AGAIN"

by Andy Regina

The author puts his reputation on the line with these predictions for 1983 on Long Island Sound.

Little kids and fishing both have the ability to bring a guy back down to earth when he thinks he knows all there is to know on either subject. Let me explain. Our granddaughter, Jennifer Ann, is two-years-old now, and sprouting weed-like. Naturally, at this age, kids already know everything anyway, and they let you know it. On her visits, our pride and joy takes over the joint! She searches every room thoroughly, not missing anything that might prove interesting, then claims her prize with a loud, "That's mine!" Eileen spoils the kid rotten, giving in to her every whim. I'm the bad guy. I don't give in. I don't spoil her. I'm king in my castle, buddy, don't forget that! So I chuckle when the baby tries to play with Joe's ten-speed bike and laugh as she picks up and carries around the lid off Eileen's precious crystal candy dish. I get nervous when she wants to play with my typewriter or demands my camera, but never give in because I don't want her to get hurt. Right? Well, if she even looks like she might cry, she's playing with my stuff in a hurry, I'll tell you, then it's my turn to grin and bear it. Still, she loves grandma best anyway!

Fishing's probably a more demanding taskmaster though, thus the harder the fall when you do get knocked off your high horse. I'm speaking now of those poor souls who truly believe they know everything worth knowing about our sport. It just ain't so, pal, and it never will be so because we chose a sport that presents some new challenge to us every time we participate in it. It becomes apparent after bragging to friends about your knowledge and inviting them along to share your good fortune. That alone is an iron-clad guarantee of total failure. If you're an outdoor writer, it's worse. Fish don't give a damn about titles; "writer" means nothing to them, even if grudgingly bestowed by Wollner or Muller. Especially so in my case!

So, what happens? We crawl further out on the limb and try something really impossible to write about, like foretelling the future. Forecasting is a losing proposition at best: if you guess right, you're lucky; guess wrong and you're a bum. Editors never predict the future, they have plenty of dumb writers to do so for them in the first place and secondly, they're too smart to try, which is why they're editors in the first place. Last year I began my annual forecast for western Long Island Sound. It wasn't too bad, and was even fairly accurate, believe it or not. I base my surmises on past history plus the track record of each fish, but there are lots of broke horse players who apply that same system in their sport, and they ain't doing so good.

Sinker bouncers will hope for a repeat of the hot porgy action found off of Lloyd's Neck in '81.

First of all, that snowstorm we had in April knocked everything topsy-turvy right at the start of the season. The warming water temperatures triggered the normal annual functions of the fish; the irresistible biological urge to spawn, the urgency to vacate areas too cold or too warm to maintain various species; the need to find proper forage in amounts to sustain life, etc. We started catching flounder early, like the good old days and plenty of big fish, too, when that misplaced blizzard dumped tons of snow on our parade. The ensuing sharp drop in water temperatures confused the fish, probably giving them complexes better explained by psychiatrists. The poor animals didn't know if they were coming or going! Fish that were headed inshore turned tail and returned to the very places they had recently departed, be it deeper water found offshore or

(Continued on next page.)

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warmer water in southern climates. Even what fun they derive from their mating rituals was halted, but that did not present too much of a problem to those sexy devils because some fish spawn over long, extended periods, and I guess that they make up for lost time with a vengeance when they got back to the business at hand.

We caught a lot of flounder last year, and although we had them throughout the summer in many areas, the fish were smaller on the average. Look for a banner flounder season again, and if enough small fish keep getting returned instead of foolishly killed, the flounder should get bigger and better. The usual soft baits, fished on the bottom on small hooks, and a liberal dispensation of chum should make for full buckets. Here we favor sandworm baits, but farther east mussels get the nod. They may be a bit difficult to put on a hook and do not stay on very long anyway, but they seem to attract big flounder and that's a fact! Crush some mussels into a chum pot and rattle that on the bottom every few minutes, directly under the boat, for dramatic results. Also, bounce your sinker up and down a few times, then let it lay still a moment or two before raising your rod in a long, slow lift to entice flounder into swallowing the bait they are surely sucking on by then, and those small hooks should stick 'em every time. The hooks most commonly used are Chestertowns in sizes from eight to ten and Sproats from number six to about number eight.

Just as we start to get tired of catching flounder (?), we get blackfish swarming inshore over rocky areas and a whole new ball game gets under way. These ugly tough guys made a good showing last spring and we look for a repeat performance again, perhaps even better if nothing unusual happens to delay or interrupt things once more. We fish on rough bottom structure for blackfish—rocks, reefs, wrecks, almost any patch that hosts barnacles and/or mussels—because these fish love that stuff so much that they will not stray far off it most of the time. In fact, their affinity for this type of structure goes even further, and they often swarm over one tight patch of a particular piece of bottom while the rest of that piece gets ignored completely. Though hard baits are normally used for blackfish, stuff like fiddler crabs or green crabs, sandworms put a big dent in these populations on the Sound in the spring. Movement and noise scare off these normally shy fish, so keep your boat from swinging by employing a bridle anchor and do not move your baits once they have settled on the bottom. Keep noise down to the barest minimum. Do not drop sinkers or any heavy object on the deck, because shallow water seems to amplify sound. Unlike the lethargic flounder technique described above, here you must remain rigidly poised, ready to strike swiftly when you feel the blackfish bite. At that instant, yank that rod up and away as fast as possible, which does two things at once: first of all, it sinks the hook into a tough, rubbery mouth and secondly, it starts to haul that fish away from any protection it will seek in that rugged piece of structure it is feeding upon. A fast retrieve will keep that fish from finding some nook or cranny to hide under and a landing net will ensure that your catch ends up in your bucket instead of shaking off as you try to lift it up and swing it into the boat. Virginia hooks size six in a tandem rig, is the usual hardware used here in the early part of the season. Later on in the fall, hook sizes run larger, which never made much sense to me in the first place, 'cause regardless of what everyone says about the blackfish being bigger in the fall, the largest ones I ever caught or saw caught were in the spring!

Oh well, back to predicting! Mackerel were late, but we had them in back of City Island into July last year, and in quantity, so I look forward to another bountiful crop this spring and keep my fingers crossed that they'll stick around as long as last year. I blew it with the porgies! We had a miserable porgy season, maybe due to the great year we had for bluefish, who knows? Out east, there were plenty of scup, but in the west they were noted by their absence. Usually, these things run in cycles, so I'm gonna say that it's going to be another bummer again this year, just on a hunch. Fluke though, that's another story! I predicted a banner year for them, but boy, did I ever underestimate those fish! We had a regular fishery going on here like off Coney Island and Rockaway in the good old days! And the fluke warranted it, with sizes and amounts to keep everyone more than interested. Catches were talked of in dozens again, not just throwbacks, but keepers, and more guys got them too. This year I look for even better fluke fishing, with much improved sizes due to the strictness of self-applied conservation witnessed by anglers. Less short fish are being kept as more fishermen realize the sound thinking that goes into such measures, which can only create a better fishery for that fish in the future. A fast recap of the last part of the season is in order before I commit suicide with my game fish predictions! The fall flounder run will be as good as ever, but of what use, if hardly anyone takes advantage of it? No blame here tho', 'cause big gamesters or hefty tautogs are also on the scene now, too, so what is a guy to do, I ask you? Our fall macks get neglected for this very reason, also; then later on because the boats have been hauled out for the season. We do cash in on some fine fall blackfishing though, and I'm going to call for another good late season for our bucktoothed friends.

I expect a good year for striped bass, especially in spring, based on the many undersized fish seen last

year and an upswing in their cycle. As I write this, there has recently been a sewage failure here, and vast amounts of raw sewage were forcibly dumped into our local rivers. A ban was put on shellfish in the Sound, from Hempstead to Oyster Bay, but I'm concerned with any effect possibly incurred on bass who winter-over and spawn in these rivers we dumped raw sewage into, like the East and Hudson Rivers, for instance. Will it affect us later on? Who knows? Anyhow, we will keep our fingers crossed here.

Weakfish are an enigma any year, and just when it seems that they are becoming predictable—bang! Just like that, they're gone! We got our fingers burnt badly here, all the way past our elbows, just because we thought we knew everything there was to know about fish and fishing! Remember what we said at the start, friend? That no one knows that much, and that the fish are often smarter than the fishermen? And always much smarter than the writer?? Well, this was my Waterloo. We had so many weakfish in '81 that we predicted as much and even more for '82. And we set a personal goal for ourselves of not keeping any weakies less than ten pounds. So we not only did not catch any over ten pounds, we caught none at all! That's right—zero, zip, nada!! We were so desperate that we told Capt. Packy Collins (of the Ever Ready II, Huntington) we were going to bring sandworms on our next visit and try for weakfish, just to see if we would catch any. Captain Packy advised against it because, as he said, "The porgies will eat you up alive!"—great talk to a guy who couldn't catch any porgies back home, right? Anyhow, a good show of squets next summer, especially from mid-Sound east, maybe out of hopeful desperation.

So, it all comes down to the wire—our prediction of the year and our final game fish prediction, all rolled into one. Bluefish! There were so many of those babies last year that at times I wondered if the Sound was large enough to hold them! You couldn't miss. It was an outdoor writer's dream come true, especially those dumber ones who make fishing forecasts! I'm gonna stick with a winner, too; so look for another banner year for bluefish once again. Maybe a bit larger than the fish we kept last year, "but we don't have to throw the small ones back, do we? I mean, after all, there are so many, and we're not breaking any laws, right? Everybody always keeps all the snappers they catch, right?"

I put quotation marks where I thought they applied—it seems to me that I heard someone saying that about stripers awhile back, or was it someone else about fluke, or then again, maybe someone entirely different talking about flounder or blackfish????? But, I'll not trouble you any further today. It's time to go fishing, so like Willie Nelson, I'm gonna get back "On the road again!"

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★ TRAVEL SPECIAL ★

VARIETY AT KEY WEST

by Lou Truppi

Interested in a warm weather winter fishing vacation where you can catch the likes of blue marlin, sailfish, king mackerel, dolphin, tarpon and numerous other game fish? Then set your course South by West for Key West, Florida. Whether light tackle, fly rod or big game angling is your bag, it can all be enjoyed at Key West.

Perhaps its strongest point is that while the Florida Mainland and upper Key might receive a taste of winter in the form of cold temperatures, Key West remains quite warm, boasting a tropical-like climate year-round.

Light tackle anglers can revel in miles of flats to the south, while tarpon, cobia and snapper may be sought in Key West Harbor and Northwest Channel immediately outside the harbor. The harbor at Key West by the way, boasts a former world record tarpon. Numerous tarpon ranging in weight to over 200 lbs. may be seen plying the harbor waters during the winter and early spring months.

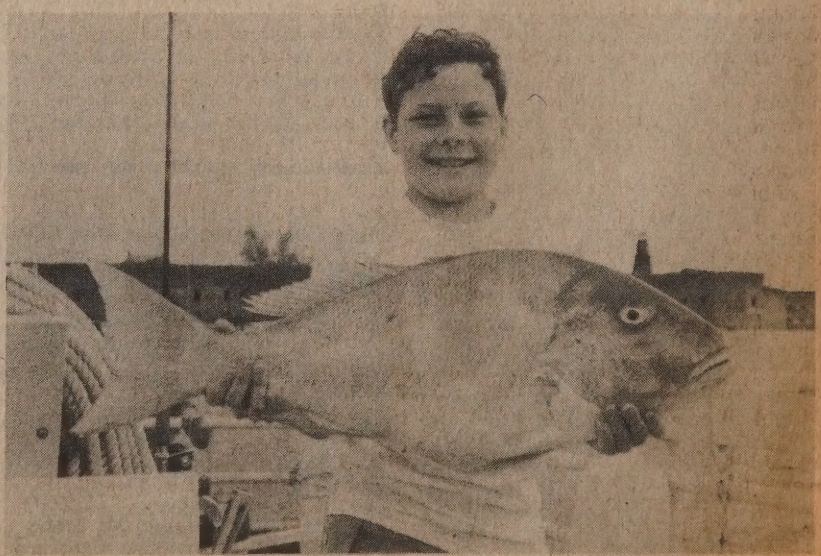
In fact, winter tarpon angling is really confined to Key West Harbor, the channels and back country basins throughout the lower Keys and the south Florida everglades region.

Numerous area Gulf wrecks also provide a real angling smorgasbord for visiting fishermen. There probably isn't a single day in the winter when any experienced Key West fisherman, given decent weather, would not jump at the chance of going out to these areas famous Gulf wrecks for a day's fishing. Most popular wrecks lie north of Key West in some 40 to 50 feet of water. January can provide initial angling opportunites, but February and March show peak performance. During these months, both a variety of game fish and numbers of trophy size specimens abound.

Resident wreck species include yellowtail and grey snapper, groupers, huge jewfish and amberjack are also caught. Spanish mackerel, jack crevalle and bonito round out the picture. Migrating species including cobia, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, jacks and bonito provide excellent sport.

Other worthwhile wrecks are sprinkled throughout the Key West region. They all have a single common denominator of being extremely difficult to find for the out-of-state boater new to the area. Many of

Blackfin tuna are plentiful during the cold months. This one struck a rigged balao southwest of Key West.



Big mutton snapper like this one have been taken on trips to the Dry Tortugas from northern party boats that make Key West their winter base.

these wrecks are charted, but the best way to get started in this type of fishing is with one of the local guides who specialize in this type of angling. There's more for the newcomer than to just locate these wrecks, the various ways to fish a given wreck effectively for different species requires experience only local anglers or guides can provide.

Kingfish fanciers can find these big mackerel schooled in the Atlantic waters outside Key West. A mackerel hotspot usually centers around Sand Key Light or south along the reef from this point. Unlike the Gulf wrecks, kingfish won't be hard to locate.

For trollers, this time of year sailfishing is the thing. Charter captains throughout the lower Keys have developed sailfishing into an exhilarating light tackle art that not only can be enjoyed by experts, but by occasional anglers as well. They fish with live bait such as ballyhoo or pilchards and slow troll and kite fish with light tackle. Lines testing 20 pounds or less are standard for this form of angling. If the sails don't show, you can be sure there are other kinds of game fish that delight in gobbling up those live baits. So even on slow sailfish days, action can be steady.

This is the season for blackfin tuna throughout the lower Keys. Cosgrove Light, west of Key West to Islamorada and Key Largo to the northeast will entice husky blackfin tuna to 20 pounds in weight to blast schools of ballyhoo on the reefs. These migrating blackfins not only ply the reefs, but can be found at various locations offshore of the lower Keys with the Hump off the Islamorada Key providing solid action.

Other migrating fish that are dear to the hearts of light tackle anglers out of Key West are cobia, amberjack, and large jack crevalle. The latter, too, are present year-round, but not in quantity and size as during the cold months. They can be found in various locations such as the Gulf wrecks, Key West Harbor and in the shelter of buoys that dot Northwest Channel outside the harbor. Live bait and jigs provided the admission tickets to match wits with one of these fine scrappers.

Another species that take shelter in Key West Harbor's warm deep waters is the permit. This tough fighting gamester may be taken by chumming or fishing live bait inside the Harbor. There are also cero mackerel on the Atlantic side reefs throughout the Keys wherever ballyhoo and other bait fish are plentiful. Some Spanish mackerel may be caught in Hawk Channel, south of Key West and in the Gulf side out of lower Matecombe, Long Key, Conch Key and Marathon Key.

January or February can be hit or miss for the offshore angler because of the windy weather, most prevalent this time of year. On the flats, it's more a matter of how cold the weather gets. Even in the severest of winters these are warming days this far south when bone fishing can turn excellent for short periods. Bone fishing and flats fishing in general this time of year is severely governed by the weather and best left out of winter fishing plans.

Further offshore, when weather permits, marlin can still be raised, but again, these offshore marlin treks should be planned in the spring or the fall of the year when both wind and fish better cooperate.

Fishing can be good on shallow patch reefs well inshore of the Gulf Stream. A variety of small fish that make delicious pan fare can be taken throughout the winter. Fish such as the grey snapper, mutton snapper, yellowtail and grunt roam these close-in patches. This time of year many a husky grouper, mutton snapper and other heavyweights may also be found frequenting these warmer inshore waters.

Charter and party boats operate out of Key West and the lower Keys throughout the winter season. With the exception of sailfishing, further to the north, the Keys provide bona fide angling all winter long. Several northern party packets run out of south Florida during the winter season. Key West is home port for the Yankee Captain party boat this time of year. This vessel makes scheduled two-day fishing trips to the Dry Tortugas some 80 miles west of Key West to offer their passengers some of the finest bottom fishing available anywhere. Inshore party packets fish the close-in reefs and again, a multitude of species can be taken during the winter season. Charter and skiff guides also abound in the lower Keys. If you consider going this route, then by all means make it very plain to the guide what type of angling you prefer. As in many other regions, there are good and bad, it's your money and trip, so endeavor to seek out the best.

In fact, for the first-time visitor or casual fisherman, I would strongly recommend boarding a party or charter boat to make your fishing vacation a pleasant remembrance. If you decide to trailer down south with your own rig, then by all means attempt to contact someone who has made the trip or undertake the necessary research required to attempt this sort of venture. I did, and it can be very enjoyable if properly planned.

Key West and the lower Keys offer some of the finest winter angling opportunities to be found anywhere in the U.S. virtually unaffected by prolonged cold spells that plague the Florida mainland and supporting a good supply of fish during this winter season, the waters surrounding Key West can be counted on to give up good catches for the entire year.

Suitable tackle is supplied by the party and charter captains, but you may bring your own.

For the inshore species, medium weight spinning or casting tackle and rods 6½ to 7 feet in length, equipped with good quality reels that hold at least 200 yds. of 14 to 17 lb. test monofilament should fill the bill. The inexperienced light tackle angler might opt for 20 lb. line for added security.

Offshore sail and general angling may be accomplished with 20 lb. class tackle.

Marlin fishing requires a minimum of 50 lb. class tackle with most favoring 80 lb. Offshore charter skippers provide good quality big game tackle, so in most cases you're better off not taking your own, but merely using tackle supplied by the captains.

Party packets require tackle that cod fishermen would use off the New England coast. Thirty to 50 pound line and 4/0 fast retrieve reels complete these rigs. On the party boats, a wide variety of fish in both quantity and size may be encountered.

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THE STRIPED BASS, IN BECOMING A MAJOR GAMEFISH IN SOUTHERN FRESHWATER LAKES AND RESERVOIRS, HAS EXCITED AND PLEASED MANY ANGLERS BUT ANGERED OTHERS. SOME FEEL THE STRIPER IS DETRIMENTAL TO OTHER FISH, ESPECIALLY THE HIGHLY PRIZED LARGEMOUTH BLACK BASS.

HELP!

STRIPER VS. BLACK BASS CONFRONTATION!

ANGLERS POINT OUT THAT A STRIPER WILL EAT A BLACK BASS, BUT SO WILL ANOTHER BLACK BASS, IS THE REJOINDER.

GENERALLY THE STRIPER IS CONSIDERED NO THREAT TO OTHER GAMEFISH SINCE IT IS AN OPEN WATER PREDATOR LIVING WHERE OTHER FISH DO NOT. THIS IS ONE REASON IT IS STOCKED IN RESERVOIRS-TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UNUSED WATERS, SAY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

GIZZARD SHAD

ANOTHER STRIPER "PLUS" IS THAT IT PREYS ON BAITFISH TOO LARGE FOR OTHER PREDATORS. ITS PRIMARY FOOD SOURCE IN SUNBELT LAKES IS THE *GIZZARD SHAD* WHICH WILL GROW TO 17 INCHES.

BIOLOGISTS FOUND THAT STRIPERS AND THEIR HYBRID OFFSPRING REDUCE SHAD POPULATIONS WHICH IN TURN HELPS OTHER GAME SPECIES, ESPECIALLY IN TEXAS AND FLORIDA.

IN SOME LAKES THE CRAPPIE AND OTHER DESIRABLE PANFISH POPULATIONS HAVE DOUBLED AFTER THE BIG SHAD DECLINED... BY WAY OF THE STRIPER'S STOMACH!

BY FRED GUARDINEER

East End Report

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

Captain Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** called and asked us to let you know that he's putting the finishing touches on his boat both cosmetically and machinery wise at present and will be ready to fish on April 1st with spring cod and pollock being his first targets of the year.

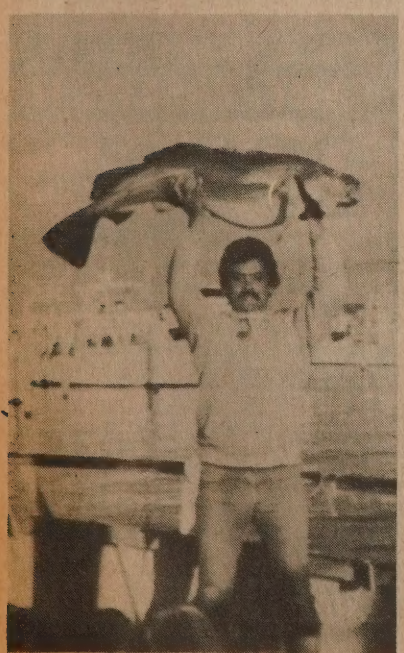
South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

The **Jib Fleet** has notified us that, weather permitting, they will begin flounder fishing on Saturday, March 5th.

Captain Gordon Roman of the



Robert Rojas of Glen Cove holds aloft a 49 lb. cod that he took along with 14 others on a Montauk trip aboard the "Viking Star."

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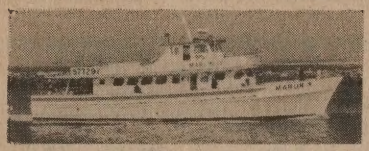

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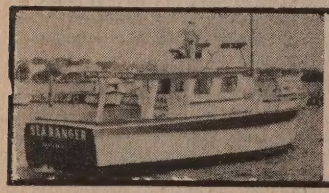

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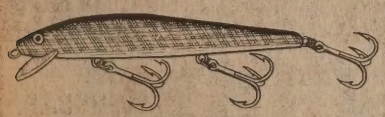
A trio of mako sharks up to 146 lbs. taken by the Bruce Burgess party at Montauk aboard the charter boat "Montauk."

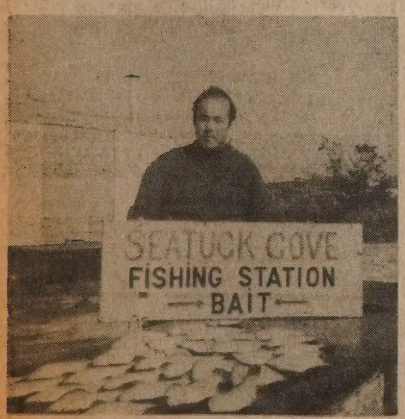
Captree Queen II starts flounder pounding on Saturday, March 5, 7AM on a daily basis. The skipper anticipates the mild winter we've had will yield us a red hot flounder season.

Captain George Tweedy will be bringing his brand new **Capt. Scotty I V** into his slip at Captree this spring and plans to be fishing Great South Bay and offshore, depending on the targets of opportunity. The big, beamy vessel is the nearing the final phases of construction of Babylon.

Captain Rod Westerlind of the **Capt. Rod** will be sailing his first flounder trip of the season on Saturday March 5th. See ad for details.

The **Casey Lee** begins her open boat sailings for flounder March 5, 6 and 9, then daily staring March 11. Skipper Neil Delanoy hopes that the mild winter will provide an excellent flounder season. He asked us to let you know that his first mate, John Manzella will be back this season.





Ray Hiruko, of Queens, with a fall catch of 37 flounder made inside Moriches Bay's Seatuck Cove on sand worms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.

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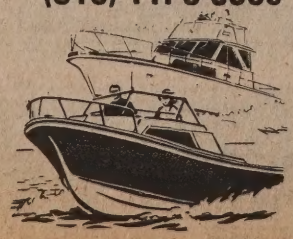

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Western South Shore Report

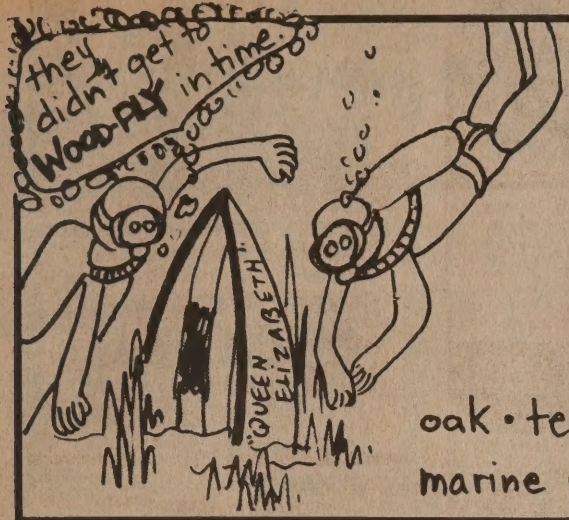
by Stu Miller

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

Aboard the **Super Spray II** on Saturday, John Marinacci of Queens Village and frequent visitor at CCC Tavern, decked a 38 lb. cod. Sunday was on the slow side due to the large ground swell. Aboard the **Starstream II** this past week while catches didn't bust any all-time records, fish were caught each trip nonetheless. Although a ground swell hampered efforts for two days of the week, high hooks everyday were in the 4 to 6 fish range, with the largest being a 32 lb. cod for Joe Martin, Jr. of Ossining, New York.

A call from Captain Tony Maio of the **Miss Freeport II** passed on the info that the boat will be starting for flounder Saturday, March 5th with the captain's popular 3/4 day trips sailing at 8AM daily.

BOATING SUPPLIES & SERVICES



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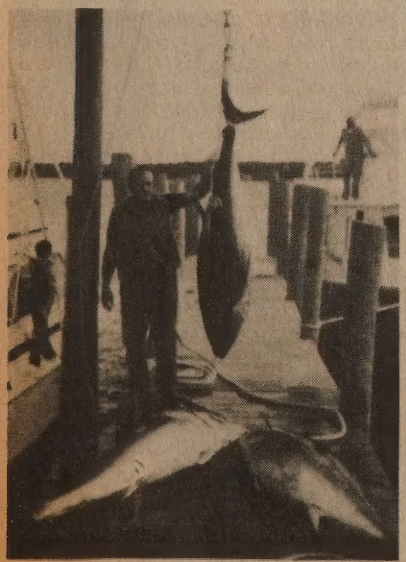
Steven Irace alongside the 248½ lb. bluefin which took top honors for the species in the Shinnecock Marlin & Tuna Club. Two other tuna were taken the same day aboard the Boomerang. Subscriber photo.

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BAHA 26' open sportfish 10' 6" Beam, 260 hp OMC Inboard; 1½ to 1 reduct. Si-Tex 767C Loran, Si-Tex paper recorder, VHF, AM/FM cass., trim tabs, full canvas w/backdrop, dual batt. & switch, Ritchie comp., rod holders, downrigger. Permanent S/S swim ladder, Porta-Potty. Purchased Sept. 1981, 75 hrs. $20,500. Anxious to sell. Bus: 212-366-7191. Home: 516-223-8676.

1980 235 h.p. Evinrude. New powerhead w/One-year warranty. Excl. condition. Asking $2900. 212-347-3852.

SEA OX on the North Shore: 17', 20', 23', Walk-around Cabin & Center Console. Also commercial. Good value; great ride. GLEN COVE MARINA, INC., 76 Shore Road, Glen Cove, NY 11542; 516-676-1377.

1977 SPARTAN Galv. tandem 21 boat trailer, 3500 lb. capacity, 812C power winch, bearing buddies. $1000. 516-724-1702.

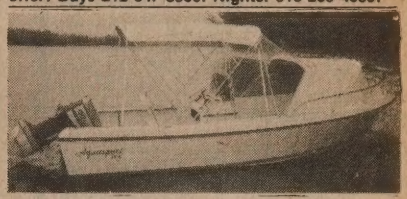
$899 buys new 14' Fiberglass Dory. BURCK, 526 city Island Ave., Bronx, NY. 212-885-1559.

25' MAKO 258 w/cuddy, 235 Evinrude, Loran, VHF depth recorder, out/downriggers, fish wells, bait well. Fully loaded w/extras for offshore. Between 4 & 7 PM. 931-7113. Financing available. $24,000.

CHRIS CRAFT 22½' center console Excellent cond. New 350 cu. in. engine; 0 hrs. Full canvas & extras. $10,500. Days: 665-1005. Eves: 666-0181.

1981 27' CENTURY. Sleeps 4. Loaded w/options. Excl. cond. Must see. $20,500 Firm. 516-473-1461.

Pair of Volvo Diesel TMD-40 6 cyl. Turbo 124 hp. All parts needed for installation. Like new; best offer. Days 212-647-8500. Nights: 516-239-4059.



AQUASPORT 17'-28'. Exclusive L.I. Dealers. STRONG'S MARINELAND, Rt. 25, Mattituck, 516-298-4020. LONG BEACH MARINELAND, Long Beach, 516-889-5000.

FOR SALE—1978 MAKO 21 & Evinrude 200. Boat has fuel saving Bennett trim tabs, standing post; some canvas; bilge pump. V bottom provides smooth ride thru big seas. Full elec. optional. Motor fitted w/new power head last year. Al Ristori, 201-334-8059.

SPORTCRAFT 19' cuddy. Loads of fishing room. Plenty of freeboard for family safety; 65 hp Evinrude, compass, CB, trailer. $3695. 516-223-6135.

PHOENIX 29' 1983 Flybridge Cruiser, twin 270 Crusaders. Coming early March; priced right. Dealers for Stmas—Sea Ox, Glassport. STEIN'S BOAT & MOTOR, Sayville. 516-567-3313.

1978 AQUASPORT 19' 6" F.F. 140 OMC, full instrument panel. Custom Bimini top. Many extras. Heavy duty trailer. Must sell. $8000. 212-343-2149.

SHAMROCK KEEL DRIVE—20' & new 26' gas or diesel; 3 models. Also Mako & Cruiser, Inc. Demo avail. Used 20' diesel, $13995. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400; 516-728-0922.

SEA OX 17', 20' & 25' commercial, sport & walk-around. In stock. Priced right. STEIN'S BOAT & MOTORS, 23 River Rd., Sayville, NY. 516-567-3313.

1959 Zobel Sea Skiff 25'. Needs some work. Pay $200 Yard bill; take boat for Free. Engine not in boat, but will sell separate. Chrysler crown 6 cyl. w/marine trans. Needs carb rebuilt; in very good cond. $400. Eves. 516-653-5520.

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Continued On Next Page

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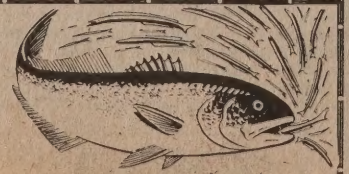

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TUNA TOWERS, HALF TOWERS & RADAR ARCHES—Custom made to your specifications. Anodized aluminum construction; welded joints. Delivered & fitted to your boat. Controls optional. Free estimates. Also self-inflating life rafts. Call Bob Christian, Eves: 516-979-9193.

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SCUBA GEAR: 2 tanks w/back pacs, 1 dacor regulator, 2 safety vest w/tank inflators, wet suit vest w/hood; stun gun, sea. gauge, depth gauge, weight belt. 283-9583. $225.

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NEW! Instant Saltwater Tackle & Data Guide. Two-sided, compact tackle-box size, water resistant & smearproof. Easy to read information such as tackle selection, techniques, fish locations, fish seasons, rigs, baits, knots & a hook gauge are only a few of the 22 items shown on this guide. Price: $3. Check or M.O. to: D. AVONDOLIO, 6 Cherrywood Dr., E. Northport 11731.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Mariner Outboards is looking for dealers in select areas on Long Island/NY City. We offer the most profitable dealer support programs in the marine industry. If you are interested in expanding your present business or looking to start one, call Jim Armer at 800-526-3820.

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People who take to the water will surely take to these digitals, on the deck of a boat or below the waves. The new Model W-24, pictured, is water resistant to 50 meters/150' below the water. Features incl: stopwatch, hourly/half hourly time signals, daily alarm, countdown timer w/repeat, calendar, micro-light for night-viewing, 5-Yr. Lithium batt. Now only $22.95. Model W-300 watersport incls. all the features of the W-24 & is good to a depth of 100 meters, comes with a 7-Yr. Lithium batt. Now only $29.95. New Model TS-1000 watersport thermometer watch. Features incl. depth to 100 meters, thermometer with C°/F° scale, thermo-alarm, daily alarm, hourly time signal, stopwatch, world time, 12/24 hr. format, micro-light. Now only $39.95. Model LW601C Ladies 50 meter watersport, features incl. daily alarm, hourly time signal, countdown alarm, calendar. Now only $30.95. Model LW-5 50 meter ladies watersport, features hour, minute, month, date, seconds display. 7-Yr. Lithium batt. Now only $14.50. Add $2.50 UPS & hdl. for ea. watch ordered. All watches come with 1-Yr. warranty from Casio. Send check or M.O. to: INTER-AMERICA TRADING CORP., 16 W. 22nd St., Suite 200A, Dept. LF-2, New York, NY 10010

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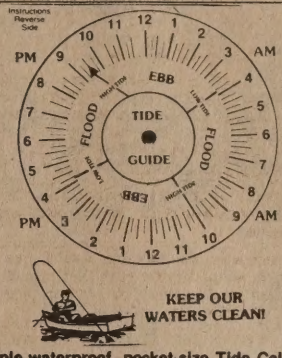

A simple waterproof, pocket-size Tide Calculator. Use it anywhere along the East Coast. Rotate the dial to get your own 25-hour local tide schedule. Satisfaction guaranteed. $2.49 plus NY State sales tax & $.50 P/H. Total $3.17. Send check or money order to: TIDE GUIDE, P.O. Box 278, Brightwaters, NY 11718.

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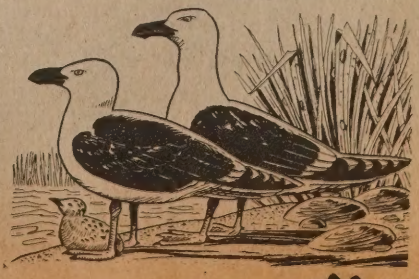

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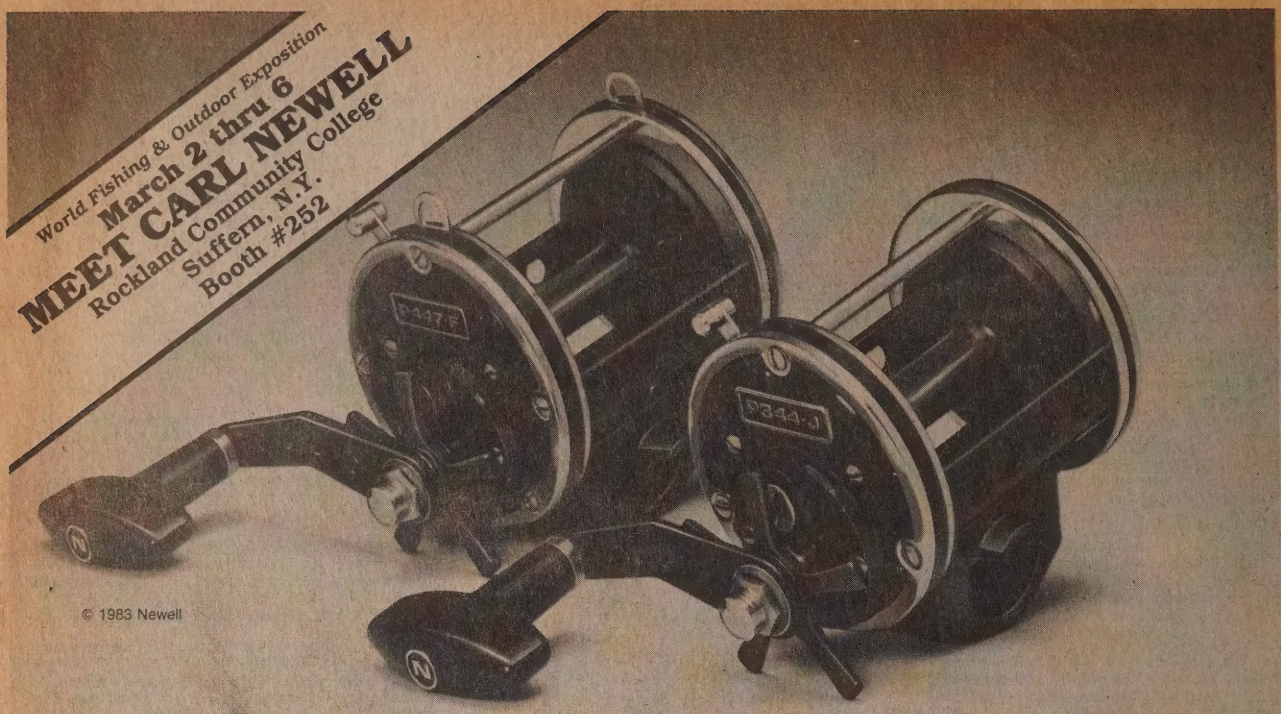

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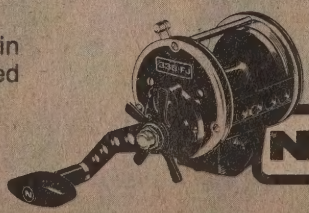

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